Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-144
Monday
27 July 1992

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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-144 *27 July 1992*

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Iraq

The agreement reached with the United Nations on inspecting the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is a "great victory for Iraq," according to Prime Minister al-Zubaydi. Addressing a Ba'th Party seminar in northern Iraq, al-Zubaydi said the UN's acceptance of Baghdad's proposal on selecting those inspectors who will enter the building is "a splendid victory in which every honest citizen takes pride," according to INA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The coordination meeting of Arab foreign ministers involved in the peace process, which ended in Damascus on 25 July, was "very realistic and frank," according to Beirut radio. The ministers reviewed developments in the peace process following the recent Israeli elections and Secretary of State Baker's tour in the region, and expressed their readiness to resume bilateral negotiations and speed up efforts to reach a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Damascus radio noted.

Israel

In response to Secretary of State Baker's proposal that Middle East peace talks be held in Washington, Israel "is willing to hold a single round of talks in Washington at the end of August," Jerusalem radio reported. The timing and duration of the talks are very important because Prime Minister Rabin is concerned that if such a round is held while he is in the United States for consultations with President Bush "linkage might be established between loan guarantees and the political process," the radio noted.

Lebanon

In a move to repossess illegally occupied government property, army units stormed the Lebanese Forces headquarters 25 Jul, trapping Commander Samir Ja'ja', Radio Free Lebanon reported. In his statement, Ja'ja' criticized the al-Hirawi government for being concerned with "how to repossess its buildings" when the "whole economic situation in the country is deteriorating." Ja'ja' said the repossession was a form of "political pressure" in response to his opposition to the elections. Meanwhile, the Information Department said that the Army Command's actions were in line with the cabinet's decision to repossess state property, Beirut radio noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting

'New U.S. Dynamism' Seen in Region

JN2407200492 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The coordination meeting of foreign ministers of Arab states involved in the peace process resumed at 1700 today. [passage omitted] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that there is a new U.S. dynamism in the region. In statements to the media on the sidelines of the Damascus meetings, Buwayz said that this dynamism is linked to U.S. election requirements. He said that this dynamism can give the peace process a boost.

Regarding the link between searching for a solution to the Middle East issue and the state of affairs in southern Lebanon, Buwayz said: We have repeatedly affirmed that the situation in the south is closely linked to what is taking place in the Middle East. He added: The more Israel is forced into a tight corner in the peace conference, the more it escalates the situation in the south. The higher the degree of pressure brought to bear on Israel, the more it seeks to divert this pressure and ward it off by exacerbating the situation in the south. Every time an Israeli Government is placed in a tight corner in Israel itself, this government, by exacerbating the situation in the south, seeks to imply that the war is not over and that it is still too early for peace.

On the results of U.S. Secretary of State Baker's visit and the discussions he held in Lebanon, Buwayz said that the talks covered several topics dealing with Lebanon and the peace plan. He explained that with respect to the Lebanese, a study of what has so far been issued by the new Israeli Government does not enable us to view what was issued as carrying new positive and realistic titles.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, affirmed that the Damascus meetings are very important because Syria is assuming a heavy burden at this stage while waging the battle for peace to seek a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Qaddumi said that Syria stands in the forefront of Arab countries struggling to attain a just and acceptable solution. He explained that coordination and cooperation among the Arab parties is a basic factor and that Syria and the other parties, such as Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, assume responsibility for seeking an honorable solution, particularly now that the Israeli maneuvers have started and that there is a viewpoint saying that the change in Israel resulting from the elections will lead to peace. However, in spite of the fact that the language used by Yitzhaq Rabin appears to be flexible, there is no change in the Israeli settlement policy, which entrenches the occupation of Arab land and enhances tension in the region.

Qaddumi concluded his statement by saying: There is a Palestinian working paper that will be submitted to the meeting on coordination and cooperation among Arab parties involved in the peace process. This working paper reflects the Palestinians viewpoint concerning the latest developments dealing with the Middle East in Israel and the world.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, announced that today's first meeting in Damascus of foreign ministers of Arab countries involved in the peace process was positive and objective. In statements to the press at the end of the first session of meetings, 'Urayqat said that the conferees discussed Arab strategy that will enable us to reach an agreement that will unite our stands in the face of developments in Israel and ongoing developments in America.

'Urayqat noted that the degree of frankness, which he noticed in this meeting, was quite distinguishable, adding that the viewpoints were in agreement. He said that the conferees assessed the future situation, noting that there is no contradiction in the present situation and that everybody should know that the Arabs are interested in a comprehensive rather than partial peace.

'Urayqat said that the conferees made an assessment of James Baker's regional visit and, consequently, methods of building and reinforcing the Arab position were understood. He said: Coordination is basically of interest to the Arab countries directly involved in the peace process, as well as the other Arab countries supporting this process. He said that there is a desire to expand this coordination to include all Arab countries.

Palestinian delegate 'Urayqat said that the topics of discussion, date, and venue for the next round of peace talks will not be discussed during this session, but these topics have been placed on the agenda, adding that there was convergence of views in all fields.

Answering a question regarding Baker's remarks on the existence of mutual signals between the Arabs and Israel, and whether these signals were positive or negative, 'Urayqat said: Baker expresses the view of the U.S. Government, not the Arab view. He said that there is a big gap between the Arab and Israeli positions, adding that Rabin said what he does not want, but did not say what he wants. He said that Rabin presented half of a proposal, adding that halves of proposals are sometimes more dangerous than no proposals at all. He said: We, as Arabs, should agree on an integral strategy for the next round of talks.

More U.S. Pressure Expected

NC2407133292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jul (MENA)—Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, who is currently attending the Damascus meetings, has

said he expects the next round of the bilateral talks to be held in Washington on 10 August, adding that it will be a "difficult round."

In a statement to MENA's Damascus correspondent, he said the current Arab ministerial coordination meeting in Damascus must unify the Arab fold and reiterate to the world the Arabs' desire for a comprehensive and just peace, their rejection of bilateral and unilateral solutions, and adherence to Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

He expected the United States to exert more pressure on the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, out of its conviction that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has strong elements ['awamil] of peace.

'Urayqat concluded his statement by saying that Shamir was a man of no proposals, while Rabin was one of half proposals and more dangerous.

Egypt's Musa on First Session

JN2407171092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The coordination meeting of foreign ministers of Arab states involved in the peace process resumed at 1700 today in the presence of [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

Foreign ministers of the Arab states involved in the peace process began their coordination meetings in Damascus this morning.

The Syrian Arab delegation is led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; the Egyptian delegation by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; the Jordanian delegation by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir; the Lebanese delegation by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz; and the Palestinian delegation by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

Following their meeting, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that viewpoints among foreign ministers of the Arab states involved in the peace process were identical during the first session. Musa also said that the meeting was successful and positive during which discussion focused on means to continue the peace process based on the land-for-peace principle and achieving a just and comprehensive peace. He explained that discussions will continue during the second session, after which final results of the meeting can be discussed.

Responding to a question on whether the U.S. secretary of state proposed anything new that could be discussed now, and whether a date has been set for the next round of peace talks, the Egyptian minister said that there are new developments in the arena, adding that Secretary Baker's meetings with all the parties during his current visit to the region were based on developments which should be discussed.

Musa emphasized the importance of Arab coordination and consultation, expressing his belief that Arab coordination is founded on objective and positive bases. He said that he is looking toward the future with optimism yet with extreme caution.

He added: We will continue our consultations during the afternoon session within the framework of defining Arab stands toward recent developments.

Comments on Process

NC2507191392 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Report by MBC Damascus correspondent Salwa Sabri on the Arab foreign ministers conference]

[Excerpts] The foreign ministers of the five Arab parties involved in the Middle East peace process ended their Damascus meetings this afternoon. The closing session lasted four hours after which the participating delegation heads held a news conference to review the outcome of their meetings. The final communique also was read out. [passage omitted]

After the meetings, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made this statement to MBC:

[Begin recording] [Musa, in progress] ...no change is required in the Arab position. Israel needs to make a change. The Arab stand was clear in today's communique. It is a very serious communique. I believe you have read it. It contains initiatives and clarifications, or rather assertions, of the stand of the Arab parties, which are participating in the peace process on the basis of the land-for-peace principle and are ready to sign peace treaties with Israel if it honors its obligations. This is a very important and progressive step.

[Sabri] Have you sensed an actual change in the Israeli stand, particularly during Yitzhaq Rabin's recent visit to Egypt?

[Musa] I cannot say there has been a change in position; however, I have seen a general change in method and spirit. It is too early to discuss the details of this shift, at least in Rabin's view. He said that he had been in office only seven or eight days and that he had not been able to crystallize specific steps that soon. He did express his intention to do so, however.

[Sabri] The five Arab foreign ministers agreed to hold their next meeting in Beirut. [end recording]

Lebanon's Buwayz Comments

NC2507074592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states have stressed the need for a comprehensive solution and avoiding separate solutions with Israel. The ministers are scheduled to hold a final session at 1000 today to announce the resolutions. They will visit Latakia today to extend their condolences to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of his mother.

Following the second meeting, Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' said yesterday that the meeting was fraternal and serious, and that coordination among all the parties was complete. He added: The impression we formed as parties to the peace process was that the coordination and dialogue among us is good. There is a real desire to achieve a unified Arab position in the next stage of the peace process. We have agreed on basic points in the Arab position to be adopted, which will be spelled out in a joint statement to be issued 25 July.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: The purpose of this meeting is to try to survey the post-Israeli election period and the results of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the region. The discussion dealt with the political, diplomatic, and information aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict issue, and of course, the resumption of the peace talks. Much has been said about the Israeli prime minister's peace offensive, but we have not seen any evidence to substantiate it. No one can tell us what this offensive involves, what issues are being proposed, and what the difference is between the positions of the present Israeli Government and the Shamir government. Therefore, we suspect that only the psychological and media posture of this government is positive. None of us has been able to determine the substance of any specific positive element. Furthermore, we had to evaluate all these matters to draw up a specific strategy for the next stage. The statement will explain some of the basic points agreed upon.

Minister Buwayz emphasized the need for a comprehensive and unified solution, warning against separate solutions.

Regarding the expected talks in Rome, Minister Buwayz said: We have not been officially informed about the date. We will await the invitation of the conference sponsors and then we will take a suitable stand. It was said that Secretary Baker is optimistic about the next stage. As for me, I have not yet seen any evidence to support this optimism, as the Israeli Government has not adopted a position indicating that there has been a concrete change in Israel.

The foreign ministers formed a committee composed of Lebanon's Suhayl Shammas, Syria's Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, Jordan's 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and Palestinian Sa'ib 'Urayqat to draw up a draft statement to be discussed at the final session at 1000 today.

Palestinian Official, Buwayz Comment

NC2407195992 London MBC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Report on statements by Palestinian delegation head Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to MBC correspondent Salwa Sabri in Damascus on 24 July—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, and a PLO representative have met in Damascus to discuss the forthcoming phase.

[Sabri] Damascus is the center of diplomatic activity in the Middle East these days. After Baker's talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus hosted the meetings of the foreign ministers of the four Arab countries concerned with the peace process and Egypt, which is participating in the meetings for the first time.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, gave the MBC office in Damascus this exclusive interview:

[Sabri] Let us first talk about the most significant U.S. proposals which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker conveyed to you during his latest tour.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Actually, the secretary of state did not forward specific proposals. He just expressed his optimism about Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's statement. Baker viewed Rabin's statement, particularly the decision to freeze contracts for settlement building in the occupied territories as a positive signal which must be reciprocated positively by the Palestinian side. His talks centered on this issue—that the Palestinians should take into consideration that there is a new Israeli stand which must be dealt with seriously and positively.

[Sabri] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz also made this statement to our television:

[Buwayz] Of course, we have repeatedly said that the situation in the south [of Lebanon]—or rather the security situation in the south—is linked to a great extent to what happens in the Middle East. Whenever Israel is embarrassed in the peace conference, it escalates the situation in the south. Whenever Israel is pressured, it tries to evade this pressure by escalating the situation in the south. Whenever an Israeli Government is embarrassed domestically in elections, it tries, by heating up the south front, to give the impression that the war has not yet ended and that it is too early for peace.

[Sabri] Finally, a reminder that, according to reports, the next round of the peace talks is expected to be held in Washington on 10 August.

Palestinian Delegate Views Outcome

JN2607182592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Regarding the outcome of the Damascus meetings [of foreign ministers from Arab countries participating in the Arab-Israeli talks] and the final statement issued after the meetings, [head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi spoke to our correspondent for political affairs:

[Begin recording] I would describe the statement as a comprehensive one, covering all that we want to know about the new Israeli position. As everybody knows, the new Israeli position has been strongly praised by the United States and Europe, which said that this position is positive and must be treated accordingly.

In principle, we are still committed to the peace process. We will go to the negotiations with an open mind. However, it is natural for us to inquire about the issues we have in mind. We need to inquire about the true Israeli position on the issue of settlements and Jerusalem. Similarly, we need to know about the true Israeli position on other various issues. We wanted the peace process to be a comprehensive one. All these important factors regarding the peace process were meant to be examined and ascertained so that we may go to the negotiations with a clear mind regarding the proposals submitted to us. [end recording]

Palestinian Negotiator Comments

NC2707093592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] In an interview with our correspondent Khalil Fulayhan after the Damascus coordination meeting of the Arab foreign ministers concerned with the peace process, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation, commented on the results of the Damascus meeting. He dismissed the reports on differences between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Palestinian delegation. He said he expects the sixth round of negotiations to take place in Washington, adding: The decision to shift the venue to Rome was made in light of Israel's rejection. What has changed to allow a return to Washington? He stressed the need for the peace negotiations to be resumed as soon as possible.

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] The meeting was very realistic and frank. In-depth studies were presented about developments in the Israeli arena and Rabin's future policy. We also analyzed the U.S. position in light of the available facts. As you know, Rabin's victory has caused great happiness and excitement in the West, particularly in the United States and Europe, although he has not announced any initiatives yet. People in the West think that Rabin is something new. Naturally, this makes the Arab task more difficult. I have always said that Rabin is the master of proposals for half-solutions, and such proposals are more dangerous in many cases.

In light of these facts, we began our meeting with in-depth and frank discussion. We spoke frankly about any possible fears by any party. We agreed on a statement that I imagine was one of the most important statements ever issued. The statement was balanced. It reaffirmed that the Arabs still seek peace. It is not Rabin who is challenging us to seek peace, but we are challenging him to seek peace. The truth is that Rabin has not proposed anything. When he assumed power, Rabin created the impression in the West that changes would take place. He is exploiting this impression, which in turn could translate into a means of pressure on us. We must deal with this matter. [end recording]

Final Statement Issued

JN2507125892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 25 Jul 92

["Statement" issued by the foreign ministers of Arab states concerned with the peace process in Damascus on 25 July, read by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'—recorded]

[Text] The final statement of the Arab coordination meeting of the Arab parties taking part in the bilateral talks in Damascus, on 24-25 July 1992.

At the invitation of the foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, the foreign ministers of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Palestine, the Republic of Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, which are the parties taking part in the bilateral negotiations on the peace process, and with the participation of the foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, held a meeting in Damascus on 24-25 July 1992 within the framework of the series of meetings of coordination and cooperation since the beginning of the peace conference in Madrid. Heads of the Arab delegations to the bilateral peace talks also attended this meeting.

The conferees reviewed the current situation in the peace process in light of the change resulting from the recent Israeli elections and the results of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour in the region last week, and the political statements made by the new Israeli Government about its position on the peace process. The ministers noted that the new Israeli Government—despite the relative change in tone and approach—has thus far not declared its commitment to the basic principles of comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region through full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of the return of all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, in return for peace. The Israeli Government has not also announced its commitment to withdraw from all occupied Lebanese territory, in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425.

The ministers emphasize anew the following principles and elements on which the peace process is based:

1. Commitment to the objective of comprehensive peace in the region and the full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on all fronts—the Palestinian, the Syrian, and the Jordanian—and on the basis of the illegality of usurpation of lands by force, and the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Lebanese territory, and the full and unconditional implementation of Security Council Resolution 425.

2. Respect and ensure the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and set up their independent state on their national soil, and stress the linkage between the transitional and final stages in the Palestinian track, in a way that guarantees the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 concerning the occupied Palestinian territories, and work for eliminating the obstacles that block completing the Palestinian representation to include the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the diaspora, and PLO participation in an official manner in the peace process.

3. The illegitimacy of all forms of Israeli settlement in any part of the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank, including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan, and rejecting attempts to legitimize any kind of settlements under any pretext, as they flagrantly violate the Fourth Geneva Convention, relevant Security Council resolutions, and the principles of international law.

4. Comprehensive solution on all fronts and on all tracks in accordance with the peace initiative undertaken by both sponsors of the conference, and rejecting any attempt to fragment [the solution] and deal with each party individually.

5. Putting an end to Israel's repressive actions in the occupied Arab territories and to its repeated aggressions against Lebanese territories and villages—aggressions which constitute a grave violation of the UN Charter and the principles of international and humanitarian law, especially the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, which the Security Council has urged be applied to all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

6. The equal and mutual right of all parties to security, and the inadmissibility of achieving the security of any party at the expense of any other party in a manner harmful to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

7. The importance for both sponsors of the conference to follow the peace process in a more active fashion and to help parties overcome obstacles to guarantee the success of the peace process.

The ministers also stress the importance of full UN participation in the peace process, as it is the organization which expresses international legitimacy and its resolutions constitute the basis of the peace process. They also stress the importance of effective EC participation.

After acquainting themselves with the new Israeli Government's announcement that it intends to abandon the policy of procrastination and hindrance pursued by the previous Israeli Government, the ministers expect to see tangible proof of this during the sixth round of negotiations so that time can stop being wasted and success can be achieved along all tracks of the bilateral negotiations as soon as possible.

In this respect, the participating Arab parties stress their support of the peace process and their readiness to resume bilateral negotiations as soon as possible to speed up efforts to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Participants also believe that the Arab side has clearly demonstrated its readiness to reach comprehensive peace agreements based on justice, if the Israeli Government announces its clear and frank commitment to the firm bases and elements of the peace process, especially its readiness to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on all fronts; to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; to guarantee a solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees in accordance with international legitimacy; to stop all settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem; and to stop violations of Arab citizens' rights in the occupied lands.

Out of their eagerness to maintain security and peace in the region, the ministers announce their states' complete readiness to convert the Middle East into an zone free of all weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, and biological. While they stress their countries' commitment to the provisions of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the ministers urge Israel to join the treaty and place its nuclear installations under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. They also stress their belief that any international initiative to limit armaments not based on this stand, especially in the Middle East, will not achieve the required results.

Finally, the participating foreign ministers reiterate the importance of continued, extensive consultation among Arab parties, especially given the current critical international circumstances, to protect Arab rights and maintain the Arab nation's interests. The participating ministers have decided to hold the next coordination meeting in Beirut at the ministerial level.

'Abd-al-Majid on Iraq's 'Difficult Position'

NC2407130892 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 18 Jul 92 p 5

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by George Saliba in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Saliba] We sensed a positive atmosphere during the recent Arab League Council meetings, something that constitutes a positive step toward restoring Arab solidarity following the Gulf crisis. Does this mean we are emerging from the inter-Arab crisis to enter an age of great change?

['Abd-al-Majid] Let us be cautiously optimistic because I do not want to exaggerate the sense of optimism or give too rosy a picture. There is no question that the emergency Arab League meeting on south Lebanon was a test of the Arab stand. I believe that what you, as an observer of Arab and international affairs, said about a positive atmosphere is true. Clearly, an atmosphere of objectivity and appreciation of the seriousness of the situation prevailed, letting Lebanon know that it is not alone in this world and that it is backed by the entire Arab community represented at this meeting. This is a good start. We tend to view our problems from an objective standpoint, but sometimes we lack this objectivity; it was there during that meeting. [passage omitted]

[Saliba] From a technical point of view, if we were to presume there would be peace tomorrow between the Arabs and Israel, do you believe that the Arab League framework would still be workable? Or would it need to be amended entirely?

['Abd-al-Majid] Let us first hope for peace and then see how things develop.

[Saliba] Where does the league's General Secretariat stand on implementing the Security Council resolutions against Iraq?

['Abd-al-Majid] Iraq accepted the Security Council resolutions voluntarily and, by its own choice, committed itself to implementing and complying with their texts, which is the natural thing to do. When Iraq accepted them it best knew its responsibilities. Article 25 of the UN Charter explicitly states that all member states must comply with the Security Council resolutions. Iraq having accepted these resolutions, the Arab League backs this position. The sooner these resolutions are implemented the sooner Iraq will come out of the difficult position it is in now.

[Saliba] Does the Arab League General Secretariat have a role to play in the Libyan-Western crisis and the extradition of the suspects accused of blowing up the Lockerbie plane?

['Abd-al-Majid] Since the outbreak of this crisis in November, the Arab League Secretariat has been cooperating closely with Libya and praising Libya's flexibility and readiness to contain and settle this crisis peacefully, avoiding any serious escalation. We hope this crisis will be settled peacefully. Efforts are still being exerted toward that end. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Urayqat Views Jerusalem Talks With Baker

JN2507104492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus—In a radio interview today, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker affirmed during his meeting with Palestinian delegates in occupied Jerusalem a few days ago his country's efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

'Urayqat added that Baker did not propose any new ideas to the delegates. He went on to say: We informed him that we reject the idea of differentiating between security and political settlements, a distinction made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. However, Baker was not firm vis-a-vis this issue.

Palestinians Agree on Washington Talks Venue

TA2407123092 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Jul 92 p 1

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Jerusalem—It has been learned that the Palestinian side in the peace negotiations has relayed to the United States its agreement in principle to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal to hold an intensive round of talks in Washington next month in advance of the scheduled round of bilateral negotiations in Rome.

Baker made the proposal during his meeting with a Palestinian delegation that included some members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

U.S. Proposal on Level of Representation Noted

NC2707063292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 27 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] On the U.S. desire to raise the level of representation in the peace negotiations, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR notes statements by a ranking Palestinian official that the United States wishes to raise the level of the delegations participating in the Arab-Israeli peace talks to be headed by the foreign ministers. The Palestinian official comments that the objective behind such a move is to give the delegations powers to negotiate and agree over political issues.

PLO Rejects Israeli 'Maneuvers' on Settlements

LD2407191092 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee today sent an urgent memorandum on new Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories to Arab and international parties concerned with the peace process in the Middle East. Following is the text of the memorandum:

The new Israeli Government has made a number of misleading announcements on settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories in which it tried to influence public opinion by showing that it has taken a positive stance toward such an issues which represents the most formidable obstacle in the peace process.

If one looks closely into the content of the decisions made by the government of Rabin, which have even been opposed by some within the Israeli Government itself, it becomes quite clear that such decisions did not constitute one step toward halting such serious settlement activities, notwithstanding the pretexts, slogans, and borrowed languages; for the following reasons:

First, the so-called cancellation of contracts to build 6,600 housing units is merely a theatrical step by the new government since such contracts were merely imaginary projects drawn up by the government of Shamir; they were only projects on Sharon's desk.

Second; the determination to build more than 10,000 houses to absorb more than 60,000 settlers is in fact the same plan as the plan that was drawn by the government of Shamir to absorb the newly arrived settlers and immigrants during the next two years.

Third; the exclusion of Jerusalem, the valleys of the Jordan River and Araba, the north of Jericho and other places in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from such a decision as well as the decision to place them under the category of settlements and security and military installations and to continue building them is further misleading and a deception.

Thus, it seems quite clear that Shamir's settlement plan is going to be implemented to the last letter by the new government. However, what has been halted is merely those plans that were only on paper. And the aim behind all this is to obtain American loan guarantees and to manage to mislead U.S. and international public opinion.

Any firm stance toward such maneuvers should mean their complete rejection and the call upon the United States not to go along with it nor to take part in them by not granting loan guarantees to these new settlements.

Such a theatrical stance [by the Israeli Government], which does not seriously deal with the peace process, is the real obstacle to any progress in the peace negotiations at the next round of talks, since without a real and comprehensive end to settlements the peace process will be stalled and the arrangement for the transitional period will be hindered, particularly given the fact that such a policy is in contravention of UN Security Council resolutions, the UN Charter, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the memorandum of the American loan guarantees.

Therefore, we are hoping that all brothers, friends, and everyone else who is seriously concerned with the just peace process, will do their utmost to uncover such a deception, being used by the Israeli government to obtain loan guarantees, and work to stop it in such a way that would be of benefit to the peace process in line with international legality and resolutions.

PLO's Hurani on Leader Discussions, Rabin Stance

PM2707132792 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Jul 92 p 5

[Fathi al-Barqawi report: "Hurani: Palestinian Leadership Has Stressed Importance of Strengthening National Unity"]

[Excerpts] Tunis—The Palestinian leadership concluded the day before yesterday its three days of meetings under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat and with the participation of all the PLO factions and Executive Committee members.

PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abdallah Hurani, who attended the meetings, told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that exceptional achievements were secured during these meetings. He added that all issues raised were discussed thoroughly with a high sense of responsibility, and that all views were considered.

He summed up the results of the meetings at three levels. At the internal level of the occupied territory, the conferees emphasized the necessity and the importance of strengthening national unity and called on all forces within and outside the PLO framework, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], to beware of the dangers that could result from a division of Palestinian ranks, particularly as the enemy's aim is to undermine national unity. The importance of dialogue was underlined as a way of putting an end to the existing differences by democratic means, with all efforts geared to resisting the occupation and the occupation authorities' designs aimed at breaking the Palestinian people's unity.

The Palestinian official expressed the belief that all factions of the Palestinian struggle will be holding meetings in the next few days and that meetings will be held with Hamas in particular with a view to consolidating national unity.

At the political level, Hurani said that the Palestinian leadership believes that the new Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Rabin faces a real test of credibility as it assumes its responsibilities before world public opinion.

The Palestinian leadership emphasized that what Rabin's government is proposing so far does not reflect the views expressed by Rabin during the election campaign. It seems that this government, by appearing to be flexible, is trying to deceive the world in order to avoid fulfilling its obligations as far as the Palestinian people's rights are concerned, as far as the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is concerned, and as far as withdrawal from the occupied territories and implementation of the transitional phase as understood by the Palestinian leadership is concerned. [passage omitted]

Hurani said that, in his view, opening the way for a successful peace process is not solely the responsibility of Rabin's government. The United States, he said, is equally responsible. He added that all obstacles to the establishment of a Palestinian authority in accordance

with the concept submitted by the Palestinian side, particularly in relation to the question of settlements, should be removed. What Israel is offering does not serve the purpose, he said. [passage omitted]

At the organizational level, and in connection with the work of the PLO institutions and departments, the conferees adopted a number of resolutions to reactivate these institutions and departments and ensure their success. The coming weeks will witness a series of meetings by the committees formed recently and stemming from the Palestine National Council to follow up implementation of the resolutions made in this connection.

Negotiator: Rabin Policy 'Full of Ambiguities'

NC2707094092 Paris AFP in English 0845 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 27 (AFP)—The policy of Israel's new government is unclear despite its moves to promote a Middle East settlement, the chief Palestinian negotiator charged in an interview published Monday.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, told the United Arab Emirates daily AL-ITTIHAD that the Israeli Government's position was "full of ambiguities though the United States and Europe have welcomed its attitude.

"But as far as we are concerned, it remains unclear and needs clarification so we will define our direction in the negotiations."

He added that "we need to know the Israeli position regarding the final status of the occupied territories. We also need to deeply discuss the issue of the settlements, Jerusalem and the powers of the (proposed) interim Palestinian government."

The United States has said agreement should be reached on forming such a government by October 31, a year after the Madrid conference which launched the Middle East peace talks.

"This issue remains on the cards if progress is achieved in the peace negotiations. But we did not come to the negotiations to compromise on what we see as our basic rights," he said.

"If this issue (interim government) is achieved without harming our basic rights, then it is fine. If it is at the expense of our basic rights, then we will not accept it and nothing will happen before October 31."

Al-Husayni Warns of Rabin 'Sweet Talk'

LD2507085392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Faysal al-Husayni, head of the guiding committee of the Palestinian negotiations delegation, expects the forthcoming round of negotiations to be more difficult than the talks conducted with the inflexible government of Yitzhaq Shamir, because Rabin uses sweet talk.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni stated that the Arab side, which was given the minimum degree of cooperation during the previous phase, was able to face up to the first stage with ease. Al-Husayni added that Rabin will raise numerous proposals that will require Arabs' study and analysis to formulate a united stance. Otherwise, Rabin will succeed in creating differences among Arab negotiators.

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Regional Issues

PM2407153492 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Jul 92 p 4

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Palestinian advisory committee for the peace negotiations, by Salah al-Diri in Jerusalem; date not given"]

[Text] Since the Labor Party's victory in the Israeli general elections the public has adopted a wait-and-see attitude accompanied by a kind of cautious optimism, despite their bitter experience with the Labor Party in general and Yitzhaq Rabin in particular, because he was defense minister for a considerable period during the intifadah through the national unity government or what used to be called the two-leader government.

The departure of Yitzhaq Shamir and the extremists of the right from power was sufficient to revive the hope of the possibility of achieving a reasonable political settlement for the Palestinians.

On the eve of his departure for Amman and then Damascus Faysal al-Husayni said in an interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that he believes that the indications regarding Baker's tour of the region are, first, that there is a new phase "which is different from the previous one with regard to the negotiation process. And also that there is a possibility of negotiation. Whereas it was impossible in Shamir's era to achieve results in the negotiation process." He added: "Second, discussing the guarantees and settlement building. We have told the Americans that the Israelis should not be dealt with on the basis of goodwill, but, rather, on the basis of clear deeds. We said that the Palestinian side does not accept any ambiguity in handling the guarantees and settlements question. Matters must be very clear." Al-Husayni expressed his belief that in order for matters to be clear, it is useful for Baker to make his present tour. Al-Husayni believes that James Baker wants to advance the peace process and wants the negotiations to continue. "This will undoubtedly boost his position, since he will emerge as the man who achieved things at the international level."

Despite the U.S. Administration's desire to achieve, Faysal al-Husayni believes that Israel must clearly and effectively halt settlement activities in order to continue the negotiations and the peace process in a serious and

certain manner. This, inasmuch as he does not accept the logic of classifying settlements into political and security settlements. He wants to know what is meant by "settlements whose construction has not been completed." He also wants to know the meaning of the "suspension of any additional aid" for what they call political settlements. This, because matters must be clear in terms of substance, quantity, and number.

He added: "If Israel wants to present itself as changing, we should see this in reality—beginning with the closure of detention camps through to the release of political prisoners; treating prisoners in accordance with the Geneva conventions, which it must carry out in the occupied territories; respect for human rights; a halt to tax campaigns; a halt to collective punishment; and so forth. There is a list of 25 points whose implementation the Palestinian side is demanding as a proof of goodwill. Or at least a start on implementing these things."

He added: If that is done, we are willing to attend the negotiations, in the knowledge that there will be progress. Then we can begin immediately to arrange the transfer of powers to the transitional government and to determine that government's powers and clarify its status, legislative powers, administrative powers, organizational powers, and so forth."

[Al-Diri] Does that mean that in your view, what is being proposed in that context are red lines to which the Palestinian side is committed even if it leads to a confrontation with the Americans?

[Al-Husayni] Perhaps matters are not so severe, as we sensed from the statements of those with whom we spoke.

We regard these negotiations in terms of whether or not they will be productive. If they want them to be productive negotiations, that is what is required. If not, the negotiations will be at a standstill. "They will be just a platform for stating demands—a platform for stating positions rather than reaching certain solutions. If U.S. and Israeli measures are meant not to go beyond a certain point, that means that the platform will not be suitable even for voicing a protest."

If they want the negotiations to proceed in a sound manner and to achieve something, these demands must be implemented.

[Al-Diri] What is your position on Baker's call for a round of negotiations in Washington before the next talks in Rome?

[Al-Husayni] What has been proposed is that if Rome cannot receive us in August, Washington is willing to host the negotiations until Rome is ready to receive us. There is talk of comprehensive talks for all the parties involved in the negotiations—not just the Palestinian and Israeli delegations.

[Al-Diri] One of the questions raised on the Palestinian scene is: What is the overall issue? The Palestinian side is now negotiating over a transitional phase, whereas the other Arab delegations are negotiating over the form of the lasting solution. What are the guarantees of a comprehensive solution?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that our arrival at the implementation of the transitional phase must be hastened in order to be at the same level with the Arab states, so that we can negotiate together over the lasting solution. This, inasmuch as it is the Arab states that should wait until we achieve the first phase. But we should not wait for them to achieve the second phase (a lasting solution). If the Arab states achieve the second phase in accordance with Resolution 242—which is the basis for a lasting settlement—it means that they have achieved a reconciliation with Israel and we have obtained nothing. But if we achieve the transitional phase, we will then start to deal with Resolution 242 alongside, and together with, the Arab states. So if one side is asked to delay agreement with Israel, it is the Arab states which should delay their agreement over 242 until we reach the transitional phase and cooperate with Syria regarding implementation of Resolution 242.

[Al-Diri] Is there an Arab blessing for that position?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that there is a kind of Arab understanding of the position, but further details are needed.

[Al-Diri] There is said to be some concern in Syria that Israel might try to reach an agreement with the Palestinians to weaken the Syrian position.

[Al-Husayni] There will be no Palestinian-Israeli talks unless there are Arab-Israeli talks. That is, we cannot negotiate alone.... We will all go to negotiate. But we have tasks which need to be achieved quickly in order to reach the same points from which the Arabs are negotiating over Resolution 242 in order to negotiate over it together. That is, the Palestinian line must move faster until it is parallel with the Arab line. Then none of them should overtake the others.

We will meet in Damascus in a few days and we will further elaborate on this position.

[Al-Diri] With regard to the transitional phase and the elections to choose an assembly to run it, Israeli radio carried a report that the Palestinian side's members perhaps do not approve the elections idea and that they might replace it with another formula.

[Al-Husayni] From the outset we have proposed legislative elections. Yitzhaq Shamir proposed municipal elections. Yitzhaq Rabin is proposing administrative elections. We insisted in our demand that the people elected have the powers to legislate.

We spoke about a group of Israeli measures which should be implemented to enable us to begin to discuss the

transitional phase arrangements. If they are not implemented, we will find ourselves negotiating for the sake of their implementation before negotiating over transitional phase arrangements.

[Al-Diri] Some questions are being raised about the elected assembly's powers and its relationship with those outside [the occupied territories].

[Al-Husayni] If the elected members are PLO candidates, there is no need to answer that question, because they will adhere to what is specified for them by the PLO. If another, non-PLO, list wins, it will be a different situation. We say that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, confident that this is the Palestinian people's will. But if the people decide on something else, nothing is above the people's will.

Peace Process Seen Leading to Compromise

TA2407161492 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 23 Jul 92 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Sari Nusaybah, deputy head of the Steering Committee and head of the Technical Committee of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-'Akir] What is your assessment of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's discussion with the Palestinians during last Monday's meeting?

[Nusaybah] Baker did not discuss with the Palestinians anything that deviated from the framework that was known to us. I believe that the U.S. position on the Palestinian problem is firm and has not changed for a long time. [passage omitted]

[Abu-'Akir] What are the Palestinian's side perceptions of the transitional stage?

[Nusaybah] As is the case in every negotiating process, it is not sufficient for one side in the conflict to have a perception, but more important from the practical aspect is the picture emanating from the outcome of the negotiations. If we wish to look at the future and define its outlines, we must ultimately take into consideration the opposite perception—namely, that of the Israeli side—for the transitional stage. The Palestinian side is demanding that the transitional stage be what Shamir called it one day: a state in everything but name. The Israeli side wants this transitional stage to consist of expanded autonomy without recognition of Palestinian sovereignty. The Palestinian side wants Jerusalem to be part of the transitional stage's geography, while the Israelis reject this.

Therefore, if this process develops and is promoted, I believe the final outcome will be somewhere between these two perceptions.

[Abu-'Akir] Does this mean that the Palestinian side will show flexibility and accept a compromise solution?

[Nusaybah] I did not say that at all. What I said is that if this process continues and is promoted—which is not certain—it will only lead to the outcome that I mentioned. This does not mean that currently the Palestinian side is flexible on this issue. [passage omitted]

[Abu-'Akir] There has been much talk recently about legislative elections in the occupied territories. How do you think those elections should be held?

[Nusaybah] There has been a great uproar over this issue. Unfortunately, some members and advisers of the delegation have been making statements as if those elections are very close.

[Abu-'Akir] Does this mean that you are unconvinced that the elections will be held?

[Nusaybah] The real meaning of legislative elections is that the people are sovereign. If the Israelis or the Americans agree to legislative elections in the real sense, it would mean they recognize our sovereignty. Since we know that neither one acknowledges our sovereignty as a Palestinian people, especially during the transitional stage, I very much rule out the possibility that the proposed elections would be legislative elections in the real sense. They might be general elections for a council that would have legislative powers in the spheres of daily life, authority over which would be transferred to Palestinian hands. [passage omitted]

DFLP Leader Rejects Madrid Formula

LD2607210592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Building settlements, looting Palestinian property, peace negotiations, and Tel Aviv's new policy were the topics discussed today by the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], at a press conference held in the Aures Hotel. Lotfi Chrayit was present:

[Chrayit] In the light of this change [as heard], the Palestinian leadership laid down a new negotiation strategy in which the secretaries general and Executive Committee members participate. Such a strategy, the secretary general of the DFLP said, rejects the Madrid formula and reconsiders the formation of Palestinian representation. It also rejects settlement in all its forms and also the notion of trading administrative autonomy for ending the Intifadah. All such resolutions, Mr. Hawatimah said, were submitted to Baker during his latest tour.

[Begin Hawatimah recording] Baker rejected in Jerusalem any amendment of the Madrid formula for representation of the Palestinian people. He said that the U.S. Administration is committed to the Madrid formula, which was achieved together with Likud. [end recording]

[Chrayit] The resolutions of the Palestinian leadership were also presented to the foreign ministers of the belt states, four plus one, at their meeting in Damascus.

[Begin Hawatimah recording] The Damascus meeting reached a joint resolution rejecting this partial and individual solution, which is considered the main link in Rabin's negotiation strategy. The Damascus meeting also agreed on rejection of all forms of settlement—be it a political or security settlement—and on the need for a comprehensive solution and peace on all fronts simultaneously, in implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. [end recording]

PLO Protests Demolition of Greek-Orthodox Church

LD2607100292 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The PLO yesterday addressed an urgent memorandum to the United Nations; superpowers; nonaligned countries; the EEC; and the various international and spiritual organizations and institutions about the demolition of the Greek-Orthodox church in Jerusalem on 23 July on the orders of the mayor of the city who claimed that the church was built without obtaining a license in advance.

In its memorandum the PLO said that the municipality itself has been planning to demolish two mosques in occupied Jerusalem.

The PLO pointed out that attacks against the Christian and Islamic sacred places are taking place while the Jerusalem municipality and the Israeli Government are continuing to build settlements, roads and other installations at the expense of confiscated Palestinian land and properties in Jerusalem; and also while they are continuing to expel Palestinian citizens from their houses.

In its memorandum the PLO emphasized that these attacks are a continuation of the policies of consecutive Israeli Governments. At this particular time we can see that the promises of the Rabin government about the just peace in the region have not been fulfilled. This also proves that that government insists on continuing to violate and defy international legitimacy and to blow up the basis and foundations on which the current peace process relies. These policies inflict the greatest possible damage on the efforts made toward establishing the trust that could push forward the peace negotiations.

The PLO appealed to the international community and all peace-loving forces to exert efforts toward making Israel abandon such practices; to immediately stop these actions; to submit to the will and resolutions of the international community; and to respect the rights of the Palestinian people in their territories and homeland.

Algeria

FIS 'Terrorist Gang' Rounded Up

LD2607165592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The command of the National Gendarmerie has stated that it has partially succeeded in thwarting the most dangerous terrorist gang in the country. The command said that the hideouts of this gang were discovered in the central part of the country, especially in Metidja region.

According to the command, this gang belongs to the military wing of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front. It is composed in general of persons who have criminal records; and it is responsible for a number of assassination operations against security officers, explosions, and assaults during recent months.

APS has reported that the arrest of three members of this group during the past two weeks, in addition to information given by the detainees, has enabled the gendarmerie forces to carry out large-scale combing operations yesterday in numerous regions in Metidja.

The command of the National Gendarmerie recalled that the operation resulted in nine members of the gang being injured and the arrest of 17 others who had helped the gang.

It is worth noting that APS quoted some witnesses from Ouled Aich as saying that they heard yesterday gunshots and explosions in the region yesterday. They confirmed that heavy artillery was used during the operation.

Gendarmerie Reports 10 Dead

LD2607214792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] On the subject of public order, the National Gendarmerie states that the biggest terrorist group has been partly neutralized. The same source also affirms that the group, which claims to be the armed branch of the dissolved FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and the overwhelming majority of whose agents comprise exconvicts, was behind the majority of the assassinations of members of the security forces, attacks, clashes and robberies of recent months. Caches of explosives, a large quantity of homemade bombs, medicine, and food were found in 11 sanctuaries destroyed by the gendarmes, who point out that they found no weapons. The gendarmerie reports 10 deaths on the terrorist side.

Further on 'Terrorist' Sweep

LD2607215892 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The activities of the National Gendarmerie are concentrated these days on looking for the armed groups which assassinated several members of the security forces as well as plotting and planning many attacks on Blida prison and court.

The armed gang has been identified. Its location has been pinpointed. The Gendarmerie continue to comb other locations. Fatiha Jaider:

[Jaider] The location of the largest terrorist group at a national level, made up of 42 members, has been pinpointed in the central region of Algeria. It has been identified and its activities have been partially abolished, according to the National Gendarmerie.

The same source says that this group is from the armed wing of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front and that most of its members have previous convictions.

The group was behind most of the assassinations, such as the assassination of security men, robberies and armed clashes, during recent months.

The men of the National Gendarmerie also arrested Chakendi Abdelkader and Abdelkader L'Snami, born in 1962, who lives in Al Abadia, Ain Defla. Chakendi was arrested with his partner, according to the National Gendarmerie. Chekendi is the person directly responsible for the attack on Blida court in 1990 which left two dead. He is the planner of the escape of more than 100 prisoners from Blida prison. He is also the planner of the assassination of the commander of the National Gendarmerie detachment in Al Abadia last June.

In Djemila, Setif wilaya, three armed men and a gendarmerie were killed this morning after a combing operation in search of an armed group, while it is known that the leader of the armed group, Izzidine Cheikh, was killed at the beginning of the clashes on 17 July.

Following other combing operations conducted by the forces of the National Gendarmerie in Ouled Aych, Blida, they succeeded in destroying many weapons and equipment caches.

Clashes in Beniane Leave Two Dead

LD2707022992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The security situation has seen a distinctive development over the past 24 hours. National Gendarmerie units continue to pursue armed elements in a number of places in the homeland. Here is a report from Mahfoud. [passage omitted]

Clashes took place between security forces and an armed group in the town of Beniane in Tipaza wilaya. The clashes, which occurred in El Amal District in the town center, lasted for about two hours. According to our correspondent, two people are dead, one from the gang and the other an El Amal resident who was killed after an armed man took refuge in his house.

Islamists, Security Forces Clash; 2 Die

LD2607211792 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2100 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpt] There were two deaths during a clash between security forces and Islamists in Algiers this afternoon. The incident happened after a two-hour confrontation between the security forces and a group of four Islamists. [passage omitted]

Police in Batna Arrest 19 Pro-FIS Demonstrators

LD2407172192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The situation in Batna has today seen some tension following Friday prayers. The details from correspondent Abdelouahab Hammoud in Batna:

Immediately after the Friday prayers, a demonstration was organized at the Okba Ben Nafi mosque in the Bouakkad district of Batna city by a number of youths, who marched through Z'mala district shouting familiar Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] slogans against the ruling regime.

As they approached the bus station in the center of Batna, the security services intervened and arrested 19 of the demonstrators. According to security sources in Batna, the demonstrators had set fire to a municipal transport bus, totally destroying it.

Apart from this, total calm now prevails in Batna.

One Person Killed, Several Injured in Clashes

LD2407214592 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2030 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Friday evening fever in Algeria: Weekly prayers have once again been followed by incidents. One person was killed and several injured, one of them seriously, during clashes between Islamic demonstrators and security forces. This happened at Djelfa, 200 kilometers south of the Algerian capital.

Police, 'Armed Group' Clash in El Attaf

LD2607000292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] An armed clash in which automatic weapons were used took place this evening between a detachment of the national gendarmerie and an armed group in El Attaf district. Details from Abdelkader Djreidi:

[Djreidi] Since 1920 this evening, the town of El Attaf, and in particular the area of Sidi Bouabida, witnessed armed clashes lasting over two hours in which automatic weapons were used, between the security forces and an unknown armed group which was hiding inside the house of a citizen in Sidi Bouabida quarter.

According to preliminary information, the clash began with an armed attack using automatic weapons on a national gendarmerie vehicle which was carrying out a routine patrol in the area of Sidi Bouabida, east of El Attaf district.

Following the attack, the patrol received support from special gendarmerie and security forces. The house in which the armed group took refuge has been encircled. The leader of the group, who was being sought and on the run, has been arrested.

At the time of this report, the national gendarmerie who were backed by special units are still surrounding the building. Exchanges of fire are taking place periodically. The number of dead and wounded is unknown, but ambulances have been seen moving to the hospital.

Official Denies Tuareg Spiritual Leader Arrested

LD2607205292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] (Dris Souafi), public prosecutor of the Tamanrasset wilaya, denied today that (Hadj Akhamoukh), spiritual leader of the Tuareg and member of the National Consultative Council, has been arrested or harassed. This denial comes in response to a news item published today by LA NATION which talked about the arrest of (Hadj Akhamoukh), linking it with the case of the smuggler (Hadj Bettou) who was recently arrested. Mr. (Dris Souafi) attributed these biased rumors to those who attempt to sow doubt and ambiguity in people's minds.

Council Urges Patriotic Rally Support Committees

LD2607202292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] At a meeting held today, chaired by Mr. Ali Kafi, the Higher State Council [HSC] reviewed the preliminary report of the national commission for investigating the circumstances surrounding the assassination of martyr Mohamed Boudiaf. The HSC renewed its confidence in the commission and called on it to continue its work under the same conditions of solemnity and independence.

The Council hailed the initiative aimed at setting up Patriotic Rally support committees throughout the homeland. This initiative, the HSC maintains, reflects the widespread sentiment for the need to mobilize for the national project as drawn up by the HSC, under President Boudiaf's chairmanship. The project was clarified in the document submitted by President Boudiaf in his address to the nation.

In this respect, the HSC holds the view that it is time a national provisional committee is created to take charge of coordinating the work of local and regional committees.

Following that, the HSC determined the criteria to be adopted as a basis for discussions with figures, organizations, and associations of a political nature. Such criteria

are based on the principles of the communique of 1 November 1954 and on national constants which are: The Algerian nation is an indivisible whole, building a modern, just, and powerful state, promoting pluralist democracy which guarantees equal opportunities for all citizens, and respecting fundamental individual and collective freedoms; it unequivocally denounces crimes against the state, its assistants, symbols, and institutions.

Boudiaf Assassination Commission Findings Noted

LD2507221592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Excerpts] [Announcer] I have here in the studio Mr. Mohamed Ferhat, member of the National Consultative Council and member of the national committee in charge of the investigation into the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf; and Mr. Kamel Rezzag-Bara, chairman of the National Monitoring Center of Human Rights and the secretary of the committee.

My first question is: What are the initial findings of the committee, Mr. Mohamed Ferhat?

[Ferhat] The national committee in charge of the investigation into the assassination of the late Mujahid Mohamed Boudiaf has fulfilled its promise and its duty. After 20 days the committee is here today to inform the public of the outcome of its preliminary findings, after having submitted them to his excellency the chairman of the Higher State Council; it intends to submit them tomorrow to the (?justice minister) in accordance with the decree which set up this committee. [passage omitted]

I now give the floor to my colleague, Rezzag-Bara, who will give the public the awaited report that forms the findings of the committee.

[Rezzag-Bara] In the name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate. In implementation of the commitment pledged by the committee when it was sworn in on 4 July 1992, today we wish to announce to the public the prelimainary results of the investigation.

1. The perpetrator of the actual criminal act of the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf is sub-Lieutenant Boumaarafi Lembarek, alias Abdelhak. He is a member of the Special Intervention Unit. In addition to his admission, it ascertained that he is the person who opened fire from behind the back of the president. This was confirmed by Guita Mohamed and Ait Idir Samir, who were seated in the honorary balcony. Confirmation was also made by Mohamed Lahouali and Belaib Issa, who are members of the presidential security service, and who were behind the curtain when the incident took place. The investigator found in one pocket of a jacket belonging to sub-Lieutenant Boumaarafi Lembarek a letter, which he admitted bore his hand-writing, dated 27 June 1992, and addressed to his colleague, sub-Lieutenant Abdelhamid Hajjaji, in which he tried to justify his act in advance.

2. The perpetrator of the actual act had tried since the beginning to justify his crime according to religious considerations, that stem from the conviction he acquired through his numerous readings and influence by Islamic movements at home and abroad, and adopting their demands for the establishment of an Islamic state. He approves the use of violence to end injustice and unjust people. In his view, the source of violence is incarnated by the highest echelon of the state. Therefore, he considers that he did not kill Mohamed Boudiaf as an individual, but in his capacity as president of the state.

He stresses that the idea of assassinating the president of the state occurred to him in 1989. However, his decisive decision was formulated once the electoral process was halted. The first preparatory act of the assassination operation took place when he acquired a hand grenade during the Telemly operation, in which he took part last May. He executed the operation when he was provided with the first opportunity. However, the theory of the individual action is not acceptable to us if he talking about Jihad and martyrdom.

Nonetheless, because he is committed to a more political rather than a religious message, this does not give the impression that we are talking about a kamikaze case. If it had been proved that the killer confirmed that he had carried out the act on his own, and had stressed that the motives were derived from his religious conviction, then the failure, negligence, complacency and indifference noted on all levels of the services that had planned the visit, organized its schedule, and guaranteed the security of the president, however, provided—directly or indirectly—the elements which had in practise facilitated the committing of the crime.

During this stage of the investigation, the committee adheres to the theory of the criminal failure which could revolve around the following elements:

1. The decision to introduce a team from the Special Intervention Unit to support the Presidential Guard was made by the commander of the investigation and security service. The mission of the team, which was basically in charge of combating terrorism, was confined to intervention and not protection. However, what we notice in this connection regarding the visit to Annaba is that the group, and for the first time, carried out immediate protection of the president without coordinating with the presidential security services.

2. The inclusion of sub-Lieutenant Boumaarafi in the special intervention team had the aspect of carrying out orders on an individual basis rather than carrying out collective orders for all ofthe unit. His placement imposed by Major Hamou, against the wish of sub-Lieutenant Tourki, who complained about the lack of discipline from Boumaarafi, did not take into consideration his sympathy with the Islamic tendency, known by all his colleagues.

3. The choice by the Special Intervention Unit to take position behind the curtain; the fact that the commander of the unit, sub-Lieutenant Tourki and his deputy, sub-Lieutenant Yacine, surrendered their responsibility to sub-Lieutenant Boumaarafi, represent the elements that instigated the killer to commit the crime.

4. The lack of the presence of three bodyguards of the president in their allocated position at the time of the tragedy—they are Saad Jallal, in charge of protecting the president from behind, and who was wearing a bullet-proof jacket and who was sitting in the hall at a distance of 12 meters from the president; Mohamed Lahouali and Issa Belaib, who were positioned behind the curtain—should have taken position by the gap in the curtain. When the noise of the exploding bomb was heard, no reaction was noted from the guards, who were close to the president as their superiors, Major Hadjres, Captain Zaidi and Captain Sadek, were outside the hall.

Following the opening of gun fire on the president and the explosion of the bomb, some officers from the Presidential Security Unit opened fire at the top part of the curtain. In this connection, the commission, which ascertained the effectiveness of coordination between various officers of the Presidential Security Unit during the movement of the cortege of the president, notes that since the entrance of the president to the hall, there was a lack of implementing instructions regarding the presence of security guards in the hall and lack of coordination among the units.

5. In Ain Temouchent, there were two ranks of seats behind the president reserved for the militants of the committee supporting the Patriotic Rally—contrary to what was the case in Annaba.

6. The commission notes the easiness of the escape of the perpetrator of the crime, and the negative aspect of the collusion of the elements of the Special Intervention Unit. Also, it notes the intervention of one of their members, Ali Driham, who opened fire and injured Nacer Hamdi, an officer from Annaba security forces who was using his gun while pursuing Boumaarafi.

7. Regarding the outside security cordon to protect the House of Culture, which in theory was protected by elements from the local security services, the commission notes that the total lack of the presence of guards alongside the wall surrounding the House of Culture and at the back door was a fact that allowed the killer to escape without hindrance.

As for the second shot, which was fired 15 minutes after the assassination—that is, at the time of the departure of the presidential ambulance from the culture building—the committee believes that it was the result of the general confusion and loss of control of the situation by the security members. Security was restored and the situation was brought under control thanks to the intervention of the National Gendarmerie at the right moment.

8 and last. The health precautions during the movements of the president in Annaba were completely nonexistent. The president's ambulance, which was sent to Annaba, was empty of all the necessary equipment and it was driven by a driver who did not have any knowledge of medical matters and who was unfamiliar with the route leading to the Annaba hospital. Despite the reassurances which were given by Captain Zaidi to the head of the office of the Annaba governor, the president was not accompanied by a doctor during his journey to Annaba.

Most of the witness testimonies were unanimous about the late arrival of the ambulance to move the president—who was the last of those who were wounded—to the hospital. The committee observes in this connection the failure of the security services in not taking dual rescue arrangements when necessary.

[Announcer] After concluding this report, what are the tangible measures that will be taken, Mr. Mohamed Ferhat?

[Ferhat] It has already been said that the reports submitted by the national committee of inquiry were no more than preliminary investigations. This is on the basis of the period fixed for the work of this committee.

The committee will not be satisfied with submitting these documents to the higher authorities. But it has taken measures among which, first, it has decided to continue its work in coordination with the judicial quarters so that it can carry out the task of the second part of the work that has been assigned to it and which was defined by the legislative decree.

The second task is very important; namely, the committee put forward a recommendation to the judicial quarters, and this is in order to open a judicial inquiry with a group of persons. They are in particular the commander of the service who had the task of presidential security, and also the commander of the Special Intervention Group. Also another group from the two services.

This is on the basis of the final result arrived at by the committee, namely, the criminal and sinful failure of the president's bodyguard service.

These are in brief the measures that were taken by this committee to the present moment.

Arrests Noted

LD2607064492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Kamel Rezzag-Bara, secretary of the investigation committee [on the assassination of President Boudiaf], stated on 25 July—quoting Defense Minister Major General Khaled Nezzar—that 10 members of the Presidential Guard and the Special Intervention Unit, including the commanders of these two organizations, have been arrested in the wake of the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf.

In reply to a question about the identity of the perpetrators of that crime, Mr. Bara restricted himself to pointing out the fact that at this stage of the investigation the case remained open to doubt, even if the committee was convinced of the conspiracy thesis. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Terms Rabin 'Flexible,' Urges Patience

NC2707080492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described Egypt's relations with the Arab Gulf states as good. He affirmed that Egypt shares mutual interests with these countries and said relations are continually improving.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent visit to Egypt, President Mubarak said that Rabin is a flexible man, but we need to wait and see what results he will achieve.

In an exclusive statement he made to MAYU, the mouthpiece of the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP], published today, Mubarak affirmed that economic reform is proceeding very well and that the current cabinet headed by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi is shouldering its responsibilities very competently. The measures it has taken so far and the programs it has implemented have had tangible success.

President Mubarak pointed out that there is no room for any person who errs or diverges from the correct path. Whoever is proven to have erred or diverged will be asked to step down.

President Mubarak said the names of the members of the NDP Political Bureau will be announced in 10 days. He pointed out that he is currently studying the proposed names and holding the necessary contacts.

The general congress of the ruling NDP concluded its meetings on 22 July. It entrusted President Mubarak with choosing the members. During the congress, the conferees renewed Mubarak's term as NDP chairman.

Israeli Foreign Minister Expected in August

NC2607112592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1043 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—MENA has learned that Egypt and Israel will exchange visits at the foreign minister level.

According to well-informed sources, the date for these visits has not been decided. The sources link the visits to Israel taking a clearer and more specific stand on accepting the principle of land for peace, recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and making serious progress on self-rule for the Palestinians, without excluding the possibility that the Palestinians may obtain further rights in the future in accordance with the understanding reached in the talks.

Press reports note that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will visit Cairo in August to deliver a message from Yitzhaq Rabin to President Husni Mubarak. It is worth noting that the visit, if it takes place, will occur after Rabin returns from the United States.

Commentary Praises Cairo's Role in Peace Process

NC2507155092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Egypt's Positive Role in Moving the Peace Process Forward"]

[Text] The important questions world political observers are asking today are: Will the Arab-Israeli conflict end? Can peace prevail in a region that has needed reconciliation [musalahah] for so long? Will recent international and regional actions be the start of a new serious stage to find a just solution to the chronic Middle East crisis? Will such a solution satisfy all the parties concerned? Some observers and analysts are optimistic that a countdown for a solution to this intractable crisis has begun.

Many have asked these questions and expressed this optimism following the recent intense diplomatic and political activity in the Middle East, including U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour, which ended yesterday; new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Cairo; and the meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the PLO in Damascus. In addition, one could note Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's expected visit to Cairo within the next few days.

We can realistically say that following a period of stagnation some positive developments in the peace process have taken place recently. These developments have come in the wake of encouraging signs from the new Israeli Government lead by Yitzhaq Rabin, who from his first day declared his desire to participate seriously in the peace process. He also ordered a halt to the building of a number of new settlements. At the news conference he held with President Husni Mubarak at the conclusion of their talks in Cairo, Rabin said that any settlement building must be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In addition to this positive change in the Israeli stand, Secretary Baker would not have risked another trip to the regional capitals during a U.S. presidential election campaign had Washington not found new signs virtually ensuring the success of its year-long efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Some observers even believe that Baker's recent tour was the most important one he has ever made to the region.

If we add to this the sincere desire of the Arabs, with the Palestinians at the forefront, to move seriously toward a comprehensive and just political settlement ensuring the

legitimate rights of all peoples in the region, we can see that we are, in fact, on the threshold of a new phase in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A noteworthy aspect of all this recent diplomatic and political activity is the fact that Egypt has played the biggest and most effective role, something all the parties concerned have recognized. This important role was highlighted by Yitzhaq Rabin, James Baker, and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the consultative team to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Al-Husayni said: We are looking with deep interest at the Egyptian role, not as a mediator, but as an element of influence with the parties concerned with peace and as an active factor in Arab coordination.

This positive Egyptian role should not be surprising in view of the sagacious and pragmatic policy pursued by President Husni Mubarak, his unique relations with a number of world leaders, his international credibility, Egypt's political status, its desire to establish a just peace in the interests of all peoples of the region, and its total pan-Arab commitment to the Arab nation and its issues. The most telling evidence of this policy was Mubarak's categorical refusal to meet with former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for a number of years despite the latter's insistence.

Out of loyalty to its commitments to its Arab nation, Egypt has helped exploit the current opportunity to retrieve Arab rights. President Mubarak has voiced Cairo's willingness to host the next round of negotiations. In view of its past experience of negotiating with Israel, Egypt has helped coordinate the Arab stand in the next round of talks by attending the meeting of the five Arab foreign ministers in Damascus.

Rabin threw the ball in the Arab court when he became prime minister. The Arab side has to act quickly and determine just how sincere his intentions are. This can only be done by coordinating the stands of the concerned Arab countries, which motivated Egypt to participate in this coordination in order to cut short any attempt to deceive, maneuver, or gain time.

The success of the current peace efforts will not come through statements or words but through the building of bridges of trust between Arabs and Israel. This can only be achieved when the Israeli Government takes practical steps confirming its sincere desire to establish a just peace with the Arabs and the Palestinians.

Dayrut Church Guard Shot; Explosives Seized

NC2507132592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Asyut, 25 Jul (MENA)—Unidentified gunmen opened fire today on the guard at the al-Islah Church in Dayrut, Upper Egypt. Two bullets hit the guard in the shoulder. He said that two persons opened fire.

The injured guard was taken to the Dayrut Central Hospital for treatment. Counsellor Muhammad Kamil, acting attorney general, asked the chief of the Dayrut Investigation Office to visit the guard in the hospital and he asked the security forces to speed up their investigations and seize the culprits.

Pamphlets and inflammatory devices were seized from the Islamic groups' mosque in one of the Dayrut district villages.

The security forces are attempting to catch those who shot the church guard and capture the person in charge of the mosque to determine the source of the pamphlets and devices found there.

Security Forces Arrest 73

NC2607061092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has stated that police agencies have arrested 73 persons for taking part in recent incidents in the town of Dayrut, Upper Egypt, and the nearby villages and referred them for prosecution. He added that none of the extremists involved in these incidents is still at large.

Speaking to reporters after attending a ceremony marking training day at al-Basatin in Cairo, Musa said the security agencies will continue their efforts to provide security for the people while complying with the laws in confronting extremism and terrorism. Musa added that the recent amendments to the criminal and penal codes will strengthen police efforts to combat terrorism and extremism.

Lists of Terrorist Groups Prepared

NC2507072692 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 20 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] The security services have begun compiling a full list of terrorist groups in light of recent events, with a view to applying the new law to their members. The security organs have also begun preparing a list of a number of Egyptians who joined military training battalions in some Arab and foreign countries without obtaining permission from Egyptian authorities. The lists will be used to arrest them upon their return to Egypt and subject them to the articles of the new terrorism law.

The new law, issued a few hours ago, prohibits membership in extremist groups and bans Egyptians from joining any military organization abroad without obtaining permission from the state. The law gives members of terrorist organizations one month to inform the security services of the weapons and leaflets in their possession in return for a reprieve from criminal prosecution under the new law, which could mean the death sentence.

AL-AHRAR has learned that the new law does not apply to members of terrorist groups who are still at large and for whom the Prosecution Office has issued arrest warrants in connection with terrorist incidents, including

the recent incidents in Dayrut. The reprieve does not apply to those who have taken part in terrorist acts.

Al-Baz Denies Libya Arming Extremist Groups

NC2607094692 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has denied a statement by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, in Asyut that Libya has exported arms to the extremist groups in Egypt to undermine security and stability.

Al-Baz affirmed that the border with Sudan is clear and defined, and no border dispute could arise as a result. He noted that the easy access across the Sudanese border cannot obliterate the internationally recognized borders.

Al-Baz affirmed the possibility of containing the Libyan-Western crisis, pointing out that the final decision rests with Libya. He said that Egypt will not impose any specific options on Libya to solve the crisis.

Libya Said To Protest Accusations

NC2507204792 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Jul 92 p 8

[Report by Amin Radwan from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Egyptian-Libyan relations have been greatly strained following Egyptian accusations that Libya is financing Muslim extremists. Security checks have been increased on the border following remarks by Dr. Yusuf Wali, Egypt's minister of agriculture and secretary general of the National Democratic Party, who accused Libya, Sudan, and Iran of financing weapons purchases for Egyptian Muslim fundamentalists. Wali, who made these accusations during a visit to Asyut, Upper Egypt, said Egyptian security authorities are hunting the suspects.

The Libyan Jamahariyah has said it greatly resents these accusations. It informed Cairo through diplomatic channels that the remarks were unfriendly and undermine the foundations of Egyptian-Libyan relations, which have prospered recently.

Questioning the motive for Wali's accusations, Libya said it could have ignored these remarks had they not been made by an official. Because the official involved is a member of the ruling party and the Egyptian Government, Libya considers the remarks to be an expression of the Egyptian Government's opinion.

Reliable sources in Cairo say that the Egyptian political leadership has not yet answered the Libyan query. The sources have expressed their concern that these statements will have negative repercussions on Egyptian-Libyan relations and on Egyptian-Iranian relations. They expect an official denial of Wali's statements.

Meanwhile, Egypt has adopted stringent security measures on the Egyptian-Libyan border for the first time since the border was opened nearly one year ago. These measures have been taken to prevent Islamic groups from escaping to Libya. Similar measures have been taken on the Egyptian-Sudanese border to prevent arms smuggling.

In another development, the Egyptian Interior Ministry has provided protection for 74 people targeted for assassination, including actor 'Adil Imam and People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur. The ministry also has tightened security around churches, banks, and installations after uncovering a plan by the al-Jihad group to assassinate soldiers assigned to guard duty around these places and seize their weapons. [passage omitted]

'Amr Musa on Lebanon Ties, Baker Talks

NC2607080392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Khalil Fulayhan in Damascus on 25 July—recorded]

[Text] [Fulayhan] Mr. Minister, the U.S. secretary of state has visited Cairo. Did you raise with him the question of why Israel has not yet implemented Resolution 425?

[Musa] The Lebanese issue was raised just as the Golan and Palestinian issues were raised.

[Fulayhan] What was the U.S. response regarding the delay in implementation of Resolution 425?

[Musa] We did not ask the United States about the delay or nondelay. We talked with Baker about the need for implementation. We did not put Baker on trial to demand an answer to this or that. We talked with him about the need to implement Resolution 425.

[Fulayhan] What was his answer?

[Musa] He agreed, of course.

[Fulayhan] Naturally, you also raised this issue with Rabin during his visit.

[Musa] Yes, correct.

[Fulayhan] What is the reason for Israel's delay...

[Musa, interrupting] It is not a matter of delay. There has been no movement on any front. The delay is not only on this issue. There is a delay on the Palestinian and the Golan issues. The delay, rejection, and procrastination is on all fronts; it is not only affecting implementation of Resolution 425. Now we are demanding full implementation of all these issues on all fronts.

[Fulayhan] Have you sensed any readiness on Rabin's part to implement this resolution before the conclusion of the peace talks?

[Musa] No. We did not go into details. We sensed readiness on his part to discuss all issues on all fronts.

[Fulayhan] Has he informed you that he rejects Resolution 425 as the only basis for negotiations?

[Musa] No. We did not get into such details in our talks with him.

[Fulayhan] Mr. Minister, you have taken part for the first time in the coordination meetings of the Arab states involved in bilateral negotiations with Israel. What is your impression of this? Is it constructive and does it contribute toward the unification of the Arab position?

[Musa] Ask the other parties. The meeting was successful and extremely good. Holding the meeting in this framework is important.

[Fulayhan] Can you tell me what the Egyptian position at the meeting was?

[Musa] I have talked about it often. The position is known. Our position has been and continues to be that it is necessary to speed up the peace process and talk about all fronts and not limit the negotiations to one front, meaning the principle of land for peace and the need for all the parties to declare their commitment to this principle.

[Fulayhan] Is it true that you asked the heads of the delegations whether they wish to help President Bush in his election campaign?

[Musa] This is totally untrue.

[Fulayhan] This was reported in some newspapers in Beirut today.

[Musa] The Beirut press carries many unfounded reports. This is a fabrication.

[Fulayhan] Minister Buwayz has extended more than one invitation to you to visit Beirut. Why have you not responded to the invitation?

[Musa] God willing, we will respond to the invitation after we agree on the date. I personally look forward to visiting Lebanon.

[Fulayhan] Are you planning any activity after your visit to Damascus?

[Musa] No. I want to take a few days' leave.

Defense Minister on Sarajevo Peacekeeping Force

NC2707101392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—The first major batch of the Egyptian peacekeeping forces, Salam-92 [Peace-92], consisting of 184 officers and soldiers, left Cairo this morning for Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Hercegovina, aboard a private plane bearing the UN insignia to carry out its duty of keeping the peace as part of the UN peacekeeping forces.

This force will perform its duty of protecting Sarajevo Airport and securing food and medical supplies for the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi and ranking officers of the Armed Forces saw the troops off at Cairo Airport. [passage omitted]

In a speech he delivered to the departing troops, the defense minister said he is confident that each individual knows his duty. [passage omitted]

The defense minister answered questions from reporters and correspondents from international radio and television networks. Answering a question on limitations in using this Egyptian force and whether it is intended to keep the peace or impose it, he clarified that the limits are wide and large. Along with forces from other countries, the Egyptian force will participate in the special task of keeping the peace. As we said earlier, our field mission is to protect Sarajevo Airport.

Answering a question on whether the Egyptian forces will actually participate in the fighting forces, he said it is premature to discuss this now, because it depends on numerous factors. We will see what the United Nations asks of us and after that we will reevaluate the stand on the political level and make the appropriate decision.

On whether there is a chance that the number of soldiers in the Egyptian force will be increased, the defense minister said that this depends on the UN request and what agreement is reached.

Regarding the peacekeeping force and the national, pan-Arab, and peace values it represents, Tantawi said: These values are interlinked. They start with national and pan-Arab values and end with international values. The fact that the United Nations has asked Egypt to perform such a duty indicates the former has great confidence and appreciation for Egypt's role and that of the Egyptian soldier and the Armed Forces, as well as the level they have reached. In addition, it indicates the whole world's trust in these forces. The task is in essence a humanitarian one.

The defense minister pointed out that the Egyptian force does not only consist of members of the Armed Forces. There are elements from the police force taking part for the first time in a mission representing Egypt and the Egyptian people abroad. This is something we are proud of, he added.

Answering a question on whether the Egyptian forces' performance during the Gulf war played a part in choosing these forces, General Tantawi said there is no doubt about it. He pointed out that President Mubarak made an announcement when he received the forces telling them that their performance during the Gulf war was one of the factors that gave the world greater confidence in them. This is why they were chosen.

He clarified that this is the first time Egypt has participated in such a peacekeeping role. He expressed his belief that this choice is merely a beginning. The defense minister affirmed that the Egyptian forces will be ready within hours after arrival to carry out their duties, especially because they are fully trained and prepared. They are fully equipped and have received ample training. They will be ready to implement their duties once they get to the area of operations.

Responding to a question on the dangers the forces might be exposed to, such as bombs and mines, and how they should deal with this, the defense minister said: I do not believe we would send a single soldier or officer abroad until we made sure he is completely reliable and the forces are fully trained. This peacekeeping mission is considered one of the easier duties when compared with their performance in the October war and the Gulf war.

Concluding his statements, Tantawi expressed his hope that the Egyptian forces will succeed in their mission and return to the homeland after hoisting Egypt's name high.

It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian forces' equipment and weapons were sent by sea from Alexandria on Thursday night to be there and ready for use when the Egyptian forces arrive in their area of operations.

Column Questions Libyan, Iraqi Embargoes

NC2507211392 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Jul 92 p 12

[From the "Meditations" column by Amin Huwaydi: "How Long Will the Embargo Continue?"]

[Text] The purpose of the embargoes the world community imposes on countries is to mete out punishment on their ruling systems. The punishment is basically directed at the people to make them, under pressure of hunger, rise against their rulers.

When Desert Storm failed to bring down President Saddam Husayn's regime, the embargo that had been imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait was continued. Some people said that despite the embargo, President Saddam would remain in power longer than President George Bush. This might come true if Bush loses the presidential election. The United States imposed sanctions on Haiti to bring down its regime by ruining its economy. Before that, it tried to do the same thing with Cuba's Fidel Castro and South Africa's racist regime. It is currently doing it with Yugoslavia in an effort to rescue Bosnia-Hercegovina from the Serbs and with Great Libya to compel it to hand over two Libyans accused of downing the Lockerbie plane for trial before U.S. courts, which suffered total exposure to world public opinion after the incidents in Los Angeles.

The failure of embargoes to bring down any of these regimes has been amply demonstrated. There are reasons for this. Rulers usually have ways of living that are not hurt by sanctions. The people are the ones actually affected, and their will has been nullified long before so that they will not act even when they are starving, thirsty, or beaten. Sanction breakers [preceding two words appear in Arabic and English] come to the fore. These are individuals, groups, or countries that try to bring banned commodities into the blockaded country. Sanctions sometimes have a reverse effect, and the people of a nation rally around a leader to defy a foreign threat.

What concerns us, however, is how long the embargo on Iraq and Libya will continue. Will the Arabs continue participating indefinitely in an embargo on our people there? Is it possible for our Arab regimes, which never before worked together on a collective Arab action, continue to comply with U.S. policy?

The issue requires a serious Arab stand because it concerns our Iraqi and Libyan brothers, who are suffering shortages in basic human commodities. It is not reasonable for us to continue implementing the embargo when the Gulf Cooperation Council countries reject collective Arab security; refuse to implement the Damascus Declaration; and sign agreements with the United States, Britain, and France and give them bases and facilities. It is not reasonable for our brothers in Iraq and Libya to go hungry while an Arab ruler donates two million pounds sterling to the London Zoo.

The United States is using the embargo to humiliate us and exacerbate our disputes. Please hasten to mend the holes in the Arab front so we can mend the growing holes on the domestic front.

Bank Grants $200 Million for Electric Project

NC2407140792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, disclosed today that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has agreed in principle to extend an easy-term $200-million loan to finance the building of the third and fourth units of the Sidi Kurayr Power Plant west of Alexandria.

He said that with this loan, the financing needed to establish the two units has been procured because the European Investment Bank had extended a $150-million loan for the project, which totals $350 million. The electricity sector bears the cost of the project's local components, he added. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Armed Forces To Participate in Joint Exercises

LD2607120592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Jul (KUNA)—The Moral Guidance Directorate of the Kuwaiti Army has announced that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces will participate with the armed forces of alliance countries in joint military exercises that will commence at the beginning of next month.

Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Sirri, the commander of moral guidance, told KUNA that units from the land, air, and naval forces will participate in these maneuvers in accordance with the security agreements signed by Kuwait in this regard. These joint maneuvers are aimed at increasing cooperation and coordination between Kuwaiti forces and alliance forces and at increasing coordination among the commands.

'Stateless Persons' To Be Accepted in Army

LD2607124192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Jul (KUNA)—Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, the chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, said today that there is an advanced plan for arming the Kuwaiti Army, including all land, air, and naval forces. In an interview with AL-WATAN, Staff Major General Jabir said that this is part of the Kuwaiti Army's plans for continuous modernization and progress in accordance with the higher policies in that regard.

In another development, Staff Major General Jabir confirmed that a new batch of Kuwaitis who received the certificate of general secondary education this year will be accepted into the Kuwaiti Army.

About the possibility of accepting new batches of stateless persons [reference to Bedouins and others who served in the Army before the Iraqi invasion, but were denied Kuwaiti citizenship after the restoration of Kuwaiti rule] into the Kuwaiti Army, the chief of the General Staff said that there are no batches, but there are lists, and in this group it is expected that those who have proved their worth and their service to the country will be accepted.

Staff Major General Jabir emphasized that Kuwait will remain an open oasis for any honorable person who deserves to be honored in the military field and in all fields. The chief of the General Staff said the Defense Ministry intends to build a number of memorials for martyrs and POW's in various regions of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Baker, al-Faysal Discuss Regional Peace Talks

LD2407193792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Jeddah, 24 Jul (SPA)—His excellency the American secretary of state, Mr. James Baker, has confirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has played an important role in the Middle East peace process, and expressed the belief that had it not been for the support of the Kingdom—under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques—the Arab-Israeli negotiations would not have been possible. Mr. Baker said: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was among the first Arab states to commit to participation in the multilateral peace talks in the Middle East, and it has taken an active and constructive role in these talks."

Baker made this statement at a joint news conference with His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud Al-Faysal, the foreign minister, before leaving Jeddah earlier today after a visit to the Kingdom. Baker expressed the hope that the parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict would meet again to continue negotiations on the achievement of peace in the region. He said: "Statements were issued by the Arab states and governments I visited welcoming the changes in Israel. They agreed with us that this represents an opportunity to give a positive impetus to the peace process and that actual negotiations will take place rather than mere talk. This is what I hope to see in the coming days and weeks."

Answering a question on reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's statement concerning settlements in the occupied territories, Baker said: "The declaration we discussed in Israel is further proof of what I said in the last few days. There is now a government in Israel working to rearrange national priorities and get away from building settlements in the occupied territories. I believe this will influence the atmosphere and outcome of the peace talks, and we welcome this."

Regarding U.S. guarantees for Israel to obtain long-term financial loans, Baker said: "Rabin's announcement yesterday on this subject was part of what the Israeli Government conveyed to us—that there would be a change in the Israeli approach and policy toward settlements. There would be continuous talks with Rabin and other members of the Israeli Government with respect to the American guarantees. Furthermore, the Israeli prime minister will be visiting Washington to meet President Bush and discuss this subject."

Regarding the Iraqi regime's continued breach of UN resolutions and the extent of U.S. readiness to launch or resume the military campaign, if needed, the American secretary of state said: "The United States is ready to continue to do whatever is necessary to implement the Security Council resolutions, just as we were ready in the past." He went on to say: "I believe President George Bush made it clear that he did not rule out the military

option. What is important is that the Security Council resolutions be implemented and Iraq complies with them, something which the United States felt strongly about before. I can assert that we still feel strongly, and that the important thing is the need for Iraq to submit to the Security Council resolutions."

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal made it clear that the talks between King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the American secretary of state had dealt with the new opportunities existing now, not only for a continuation of the negotiations but also with respect to moving toward meaningful negotiations and talks. His highness added: "The reports brought by Secretary Baker have encouraged us greatly. We always support peaceful measures and we will now continue, with God's will, to do so with a new hope."

Answering a question about what the would Arabs do regarding the transformation in Israeli policy under the new government, his excellency the foreign minister said: "I do not know whether it is possible to describe the change of government in Israel as a concession for the Arabs, but it is a means to move toward the negotiations, which is encouraging. We hope that a new round of talks will start and be fully meaningful."

Answering a question about whether the Kingdom will support the UN Security Council if it issues a resolution to resume military action against Iraq, his highness said: "Iraq's noncompliance with UN Security Council resolutions and the cease-fire agreement not only worries the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but worries the international community. We are happy that the United Nations is now taking that into account, we have always supported UN efforts in this respect, and we are continuing in that."

Commentary Assesses Baker's Middle East Tour

LD2407221392 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Husayn al-Askari commentary from the "News and Comment" program]

[Text] Dear listeners: May God's peace, blessing, and benediction be upon you. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has asserted—following a brief tour of a number of countries concerned with efforts to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli problem—that he found encouraging elements that would bolster the peace process.

It is natural that the U.S. secretary of state should not disclose the outcome of his visit and his meetings with a number of the region's leaders aimed at bolstering the peace process between Arabs and Israel. He did not, however, hide his optimism that there is a possibility for new elements to emerge that could help the peace process.

It is clear that Baker was trying to say that the government of the enemy, under the premiership of Yitzhaq Rabin, might scrap plans for more settlements on the occupied Arab territories. This is thought to be a calculated maneuver on the part of Rabin to encourage the United States to furnish Israel with loan guarantees worth $10 billion, which Washington had refused to release while the Israelis continued to build settlements on the occupied Arab territories.

Therefore, it is quite right that Rabin's intentions should be doubted as long as nothing to the contrary is proven. Rabin must prove through his deeds that he is truly seeking peace by agreeing to deal with all elements of the problem. It seems, however, that Rabin only wants to deal with a few of the elements that might lead to peace; that is, he has adopted a new language by asserting that there are political and strategic settlements. He means that the building of settlements in some parts of the occupied territories could be stopped while the building should continue in other parts, a matter which was rejected by the U.S. secretary of state when he recently met Rabin.

The U.S. decision to release the loan guarantees would be coupled with the fear that Rabin, once he receives what he wants by making an aimless move, might have an opportunity to make further maneuvers. Nevertheless, one can wait until the picture the U.S. secretary of state has been trying to put together is clear.

Yemen

Palestinian Official Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2407134692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, left Sanaa today following a six-day visit to our country. During his visit, he conveyed a message to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, head of the Presidential Council, from his struggling brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of Palestine.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', the Palestinian official said that he and the foreign minister, brother Dr. 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani, had discussed the serious developments arising in the occupied Arab territories as a result of the continuing Zionist policy of terrorism against the Palestinian people.

Brother Abu-Sharif noted that he also had discussed coordination with respect to the meetings of the foreign ministers taking part in the peace process, which began in Damascus today, as well as bilateral cooperation serving the common interests of the two fraternal peoples.

Accord on UN Inspection Termed 'Victory'

JN2707132192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has stated that the recent agreement between Iraq and the United Nations on the inspection teams is a great victory for Iraq.

At a seminar held by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in al-Ta'mim Governorate in northern Iraq today, he added that UN acceptance of Iraq's proposal on naming the elements that will inspect the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was a splendid victory in which every honest citizen takes pride.

He pointed out that this victory embodies the Iraqis' firm national will, their faith, their passion, their honorable national steadfastness, and their rallying around the leadership of President Saddam Husayn who is leading the battle of challenge and determination bravely and wisely.

The prime minister added that the homeland and the unity of its land and people are a trust in the hands of the honorable and good citizens, who are fighting for every inch of land until martyrdom.

UN Envoy Cited on Agreement With Special Commission

JN2607192492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1913 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] New York, 26 Jul (INA)—Iraq and the UN Security Council Special Commission, have reached an agreement resolving the issue of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry.

At a press conference held after meeting with Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, described the agreement as satisfying to both sides.

An INA correspondent in New York quoted Mr. al-Anbari as saying that Mr. Ekeus and a new team of UN experts will leave for Baghdad on Tuesday, pointing out that the team will include experts from neutral European countries.

Paper Stresses 'Principled Stand' on Sovereignty

JN2707084392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH affirms that Iraq's principled stand of rejecting any behavior that harms its national sovereignty and exposing the U.S. hostile stand has further exacerbated the predicament of Bush and the U.S. Administration.

AL-QADISIYAH, speaking for the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, says in an article today that it has become evident to those far and near that U.S. hostility toward Iraq has exceeded even the basic rules governing any conflict between two parties and that criminal Bush and his subservient lackeys will face disgrace and humiliation.

The U.S. officials' foolishness has gone so far that they have revealed their inbred hatred of Iraq and its historical leadership and revolutionary regime and they no longer hesitate to speak about what is beyond the inspection teams by revealing their treacherous objectives against Iraq—land, nation, and civilization.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms that the U.S. Administration, headed by criminal Bush, has placed itself in a unbearable position and even its allies have started to wonder about what it wants to achieve. This has become clear even through the U.S. and Western media and shows that the Americans have started to be out of tune even with their own allies.

The paper refers to the BBC New York correspondent's description of the U.S. behavior toward Iraq as being a U.S. display for purely U.S. motives. Also, many international observers have commented along the same lines. U.S. spy David Kay pushed for striking Iraq and its civilian facilities due to his anger over the continued revolution march in Iraq, especially after the International Atomic Energy Agency had expelled him and he opened an espionage research center in Washington.

AL-QADISIYAH says that the uproar created by Baker is connected with his feverish attempt to link the stand on Iraq with Bush's future in the presidential elections.

Al-Zubaydi on Foiling 'U.S.-Zionist Conspiracy'

JN2707111692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubadi has affirmed that the Iraqis' struggle, patience, and great sacrifices have made them a struggling nation that cannot be defeated and a nation whose will cannot be usurped by the forces of evil and aggression, whatever their malicious aggressive methods.

Presiding over a meeting in the city of Karkuk, attended by al- Ta'mim Governor Yasir Hasan Sultan, the comrade secretary of the al- Ta'mim Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and several officials in the governorate, the prime minister said that Iraq—under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn, and thanks to the Iraqis' cohesion, national unity, and determination to face challenges—is capable of thwarting the objectives of the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy and pursuing the march of development and progress in all spheres.

The prime minister noted the great efforts being made by the strugglers in the stage of the new construction, saying that what the Iraqis had achieved in this field clearly reflects the greatness of this struggling people and its ability to maintain steadfastness and put up a challenge to achieve its desired aspirations.

The prime minister listened to a detailed review by al-Ta'mim Governor Yasir Hasan Sultan on services rendered to citizens in the governorate, which were ordered by President Saddam Husayn at the cost of 15,850,008 dinars, as well as on the reconstruction efforts in the governorate.

'Aziz Statements at 23 Jul News Conference

JN2407155792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1055 GMT 24 Jul 92

["Part" of the statements made by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, during a news conference in Baghdad on 23 July—recorded; passages in italics in English]

[Text] Good morning, ladies and gentlemen: I and my colleague, the minister of state for foreign affairs, are pleased to meet with you to speak about our present relationship with the Security Council and the Special Commission.

There is, now, what seems to be a hot issue; that is, the inspection team's request to inspect the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. In fact, this is not the main issue. The main issue is much more comprehensive than this. The main issue is the Security Council's stand vis-a-vis Iraq. If we were to be precise, we would say it is the stand of a number of influential Security Council member states. These countries are trying to bring out their own positions through the Security Council. It is the Security Council's stand on two major issues—the first, continuing the imposition of the unjust blockade on the people of Iraq, and the second, the Security Council's stand with regard to respecting Iraq's sovereignty and dignity, noninterference in Iraq's internal affairs, and respecting its legitimate interests. Within this framework comes the concept of implementing the Security Council resolutions. This is the main issue. The story of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry is only part of this issue. Had the Security Council adopted any acceptable agreement or stand vis-a-vis Iraq, this problem would never have occurred.

Since the adoption of Resolution 687 in April 1991, Iraq has implemented the obligations imposed on it in accordance with this resolution. In accordance with the provisions of the same resolution, the Security Council was supposed to adopt a clear resolution to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. This, however, has not happened. Now, that one year and three months have passed, the blockade is still imposed on the people of Iraq.

Regardless of the extent we have reached in terms of implementing the commitments or terms imposed on Iraq, *the position of the Security Council is that that is not enough.*

The other aspect is that despite our observations regarding Resolution 687 that were included in an official letter sent by Iraq's foreign minister to the UN secretary general in April 1991, we accepted that resolution, but on the basis of respecting Iraq's sovereignty, dignity, and noninterference in its internal affairs. Regarding this issue in particular, during my visit to New York last March and the meeting I had with the Security Council, I was very clear. I said before the Security Council that we are ready to implement Resolution 687 and to cooperate with the Security Council and the Special Commission in implementing the aforementioned resolution, but on the basis of respecting Iraq's sovereignty, dignity, noninterference in its internal affairs, and on the basis of respecting Iraq's legitimate rights to continue its industrial and scientific development in the fields that are not covered by Resolution 687. I said: On this basis, we accept the implementation. However, we would resist and reject any attempt to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty and dignity, to interfere in its internal affairs, or to threaten its internal security. We said this in clear-cut language. After our return from New York, we continued our cooperation with the Security Council and the Special Commission. We even fulfilled some requests despite the fact that they were unjust and difficult. For example, they asked for the destruction of buildings which they said were related to the Iraqi nuclear program. We proved—through scientific discussion during talks between Iraqi scientists and experts from the [International Atomic] Energy Agency in Vienna—that these buildings were not used in banned programs. We also proved that some of these buildings were empty and that they could be used for civilian purposes. Despite all this, the Special Commission insisted on destroying these buildings.

We agreed to this to remove pretexts that could be used to continue the blockade of Iraq and level threats against it. Meanwhile, the Special Commission asked the competent Iraqi authorities to submit what it called a comprehensive report on Iraq's armament programs covered by Resolution 687. As a result, two reports were submitted: The first was on missiles, and chemical and bacteriological research, and the second regarded the nuclear field. At that time, we held talks with the Security Council directly through our permanent representative in New York and indirectly through a member of the Security Council; I had paid a visit to that delegates's country and asked him to convey a letter from Iraq to the Security Council, especially to the more influential members on the Council. The content of that letter was that Iraq has implemented its obligations, and it provided examples such as the destruction of weapons, the submission of data, the destruction of plants and equipment which the Special Commission said were related to the resolution; that work was continuing to complete the implementation; and that the competent Iraqi authorities were offering the required facilities.

Now, the Security Council should seriously consider lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq and stopping its interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. This letter was conveyed but the concerned states' only response to our position was negative silence. Before the inspection

teams asked to visit the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, we had been preparing a new letter to the secretary general and, through him, to the Security Council, containing the same information as the previous letter we conveyed through one of the members, as I have already said. The letter was sent on 11 July, and you have seen this letter. The gist of that message was that Iraq had met its obligations and that the Security Council should live up to its own obligations.

This is the main issue; namely, the Security Council's position on Iraq, which is aimed at continuing the blockade, harming Iraq's sovereignty and internal security, and interfering in its domestic affairs. As I have said, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation story is only marginal. When we review the history of the inspection teams in Iraq, we see that 41 teams have visited our country since June 1991. The number of sites inspected by these teams has reached 500. In addition to these teams, there have been helicopters conducting flights. They have conducted 260 flights racking up over 1,200 hours in overall flight time; the number of sites visited by the helicopters has reached 120. From the number of these teams, the number of sites they have inspected, the number of flights conducted by these helicopters and the sites inspected by these flights, in addition to the American U-2's, and the data submitted by the Iraqi side, make it clear that if the Security Council and the Special Commission were fair, the inspection tasks would have been completed by now.

What other aspects covered by Resolution 687 are still applicable in Iraq? During the visits made by inspection teams over the past months, there have been both announced and surprise visits to sites. During all these visits, the teams have found nothing. This team, headed by Major Karen Jansen, asked to visit the Ministry of Agriculture. We objected to this. Between 6 and 9 July, the same team carried out surprise visits to eight other sites and found nothing. Then what can we conclude from all this? We conclude that the inspection teams pursue useless work as there is nothing else in Iraq which is banned. However, in spite of this, the teams continue with their work, and the Special Commission continues to say this is not enough, and the UN Security Council also says this is not enough. The result is that the blockade on Iraq is maintained and the attempts to harm Iraq's sovereignty continue in terms of interfering in its domestic affairs and threatening its domestic security.

This state of affairs is not in line with the legal content of the UN resolutions. This state of affairs is imposed by certain countries within the Council, particularly the United States and the United Kingdom. The aim of all this is to destabilize the domestic situation in Iraq. This is a declared objective. This is what U.S. President George Bush has said. This is what British Prime Minister Major has also said.

Concerning the story of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry, Maj. Karen Jansen wanted to pay a surprise visit there. She arrived at the building housing the ministry's headquarters. She was told that it is the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. She said: Who says that this is the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation? We told her the answer to this is simple. We affirm to you that this is the ministry's building, and we can invite the representatives of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], the UN Development Program [UNDP], and any other UN specialized agencies to verify this. They will come and confirm to you that this really is the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. In spite of this, she said that even if this was a ministry building she intended to visit and inspect it.

What should we conclude from this, particularly after Mr. Ekeus visited Baghdad? Most probably, during his stay in Baghdad he met with the FAO and UNDP representatives, and with the UN coordinator, as well as with impartial parties. It goes without saying that they told him, specifically on this issue, that this really is the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and yet he went back to New York and spoke of an alleged building housing the Ministry of Agriculture. This shows the biased nature of this whole situation.

Ekeus came to Baghdad. He met with the minister of state for foreign affairs and the foreign minister. Then, he held a final meeting with me. I told him: I have been briefed on your talks with my colleagues the foreign minister and the minister of state for foreign affairs. However, I will restate, or summarize the position of the Iraqi Government.

I said to him: We will not allow the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry to be visited and inspected. This was not meant to imply that we were hiding anything there prohibited under Resolution 687. Rather, it is because it is one of the symbols of Iraq's sovereignty. It was for this reason that we allowed journalists and foreign diplomats access to the building and let them take pictures. To underscore this fact, I suggest that we invite a number of experts from nonaligned or neutral countries—India, the PRC, Austria, or Switzerland, for instance—into the building to search it. We are making this suggestion in order to prove that there is nothing violating the embargo in the building. Verification must be made independently of the Special Commission. This is because we reject an undefined and loose interpretation of the Special Commission's mandate. The Special Commission chairman contends that inspection teams are authorized by the Security Council to visit any building or site in Iraq. As for us, we say no. You can visit a camp, a plant, an industrial warehouse, or an establishment covered by Resolution 687, but the inspection team has no right to ask to visit the Culture and Information Ministry [as heard]. This is not a new Iraqi position. I told Rolf Ekeus: You are well aware of our position. I myself have stated it unambiguously and in no uncertain terms to the Security Council. We will have nothing to do with this loose and undefined interpretation. Still, when we allow a visit to a site covered by Resolution 687, it must involve no intervention. Whoever wants to

make certain if Iraq is in possession of banned weapons or whether there are materials related to such weapons is welcome to do so, but that is the limit of his mandate. This is the bone of contention. We see the whole episode as an attempt on the part of the United States in particular to use UN agencies and the Special Commission to insult Iraq. These and earlier attempts were spearheaded by the Americans—the notorious attempts of David Kay. What I said in this very room about his being a CIA agent has been substantiated. His career has been made public. He worked as a CIA operative for many years.

The head of this 38th or 39th team is Karen Jansen, who is a major in the U.S. Army. When she left Baghdad for Bahrain, she said she had not taken part in the war against Iraq, but that she would have been proud to have done so. Now, the current head of the inspection team, Mr. Mark Silver, is also an American. Yesterday, the team decided to withdraw from its location in front of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and they informed us that they had been attacked, and the Special Commission issued a statement, the preamble of which claims that the team was threatened by the masses. In another paragraph, the statement also says: *This morning still another grave incident occurred [words indistinct] inspector sitting in the car outside the building by a man, who attempted to stab him with a skewer. The inspector managed to defend himself. It is astonishing that the Iraqi security authorities allowed at first the man to approach that inspector and then interfered after the inspector tried to defend himself.* This is the story that was fabricated and then the inspection team was withdrawn.

Information I have received from diplomatic sources indicates that the decision to withdraw the team was made in New York and not here in Baghdad. On the night before this alleged incident, the head of the team, Mr. Silver, contacted the competent Iraqi authorities and said he wanted to return to that place and also demanded what he described as an increase of protective measures. We told him that to return to that place was his own business and that Iraqi protective measures were adequate and that this is a matter that we should decide.

What are we to conclude from this story? If the Special Commission has information that the building contains prohibited materials, as the Commission claims, and I will read a text now [as heard]: *Since 5 July 1992, the Iraqi Government has denied access to those premised in Baghdad by the Special Commission to inspect it on well-founded information.* If they really doubt that there are prohibited materials, why did they leave the building yesterday morning and then decide they wanted to come back? And yet they still have not returned. By doing that, they gave us ample time to remove the materials they claim are hidden in the building. Why should they want to go back and inspect the building now? If their goal had been to actually find such material, they would not have left in the first place since during their absence the alleged materials could have been removed.

What is their purpose? It is a political one. It is not a technical or practical one. If their purpose had been technical or practical, they would not have left the site for an entire day. These are the facts. In fact, there has been a premeditated, unjust position—an American position using the UN organs, and the Special Commission in particular, and employing American staff to carry out actions inside Iraq with the objective of harming Iraq's sovereignty, interfering in its domestic affairs, and spying on Iraq.

During our visit to New York, we said that the Special Commission uses an American U-2 airplane for aerial surveillance. If the objective was really technical—that is, aerial surveillance related to the tasks of the Special Commission—then Iraq was prepared to provide the Special Commission with an aircraft. If the plane is an Eastern-made one, such a MiG, a Russian, Indian, or Chinese pilot could fly this aircraft. If the aircraft is a Mirage, or Western-made aircraft, we could use a pilot from a country which does not declare that it has hostile intentions toward the Iraqi Government. What would the American U-2 aircraft search for? They apparently do not search for the things the Special Commission is interested in, but they search for information of interest to the CIA?

Was the information collected by the inspectors and pilots given to the Special Commission exclusively, or did it go to Washington? We had an incident which proved this. The head of an inspection team, David Kay, conveyed such information to [U.S. National Security Adviser] Scowcroft before sending it to [UN Secretary General] Butrus Ghali and [UN Ambassador] Rolf Ekeus.

I will conclude this introduction by saying that Iraq will neither concede its sovereignty nor accept any insults. Iraq will not allow the inspection teams to threaten its internal security, and will not permit these teams, or any UN personnel for that matter, to interfere in its internal affairs. This is the basis upon which we will deal with the Security Council, the Special Commission, and other UN agencies.

Thank you for listening. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, might have something to say:

[Al-Sahhaf] I would like to say this in support of what Deputy Prime Minister 'Aziz said in his press conference: UN Ambassador Ekeus explained to us on more than one occasion that he acknowledges that information and data collected by American U-2 aircraft went directly to American laboratories and concerned parties. Only after that did the American departments provide him with a copy of some of the data. I asked him if all the information was turned over to him. He said that nobody can be sure of that.

'Mammoth Processions' Denounce UN Team in Baghdad

JN2607145192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Masses and tribes from Baghdad Governorate today denounced the cowardly criminal acts practiced by the team of scoundrels in front of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry.

During mammoth processions in front of the ministry building, the masses expressed their anger and indignation over and denunciation of the team's provocative practices, which are considered flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and a blatant violation of all international norms and charters. They condemned the U.S. Administration's practices, continued threats, and rabid campaigns against great Iraq, and its burning of wheat and barley crops in Ninawa Governorate. The masses expressed their full and unlimited readiness to defend the homeland and foil all conspiracies aimed at undermining Iraq's security and sovereignty.

Baghdad tribal chiefs handed a protest memorandum to the UN representative in Baghdad addressed to the UN secretary general. The memorandum calls on the UN secretary general to interfere quickly and assume his full humanitarian responsibilities to expose the inspection team's provocative practices.

In a cable to President Saddam Husayn, the Baghdad Governorate's tribal chiefs renewed their pledge of love and loyalty, and stressed that they will continue to be soldiers to fight under the flag of God is great, which is hoisted by the triumphant leader to defend the honor of Iraq and the Arab nation and the achievements of the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

UN Inspectors' Activity, Departure Reported

JN2507142192 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—The chemical, biological and ballistic inspection team 39 which on Wednesday ended 18-day standoff at the entrance of the premises of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry left Baghdad on Friday for Bahrain.

The team which left the premises on Wednesday morning spent the last three days monitoring the ministry from the 17th floor of the Sheraton Hotel which is only 400 metres from the ministry.

Before departure, head of the team, Mark Silver told reporters that he and his team would leave for Bahrain upon instructions from the executive chairman of the United Nations Special Committee Rolf Ekeus.

He said "discussions are on-going in New York between the executive chairman and the permanent representative of Iraq to the United Nations, Dr 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari."

"Our return to Baghdad will be based on (these) discussions of the modalities of the inspection of the building," Silver said.

He declined to answer when asked if his team is leaving because of the massive demonstrations staged in front of the Sheraton Hotel on Friday morning protesting against inspecting the ministry.

INA quoted the head of the Iraqi side in the talks with the UN team, Mr. Husam Muhammad Amin as affirming that the team will be in Bahrain waiting for the outcome of the on-going talks in New York between Iraq and the U.N.

Before the departure of the team, demonstrations swept through the streets passing by the Sheraton and Palestine Hotels in Baghdad where the UN inspection teams usually stay.

On Thursday, Silver met with head of the Iraqi side accompanying the team Mr. Husam Muhammad Amin.

Mr. Amin said that the meeting discussed technical issues and coordination between the two sides.

He said that allegations by Silver that his team has faced threats from demonstrators are false and baseless.

Head of the Iraqi side Mr. Husam Muhammad Amin commenting on the departure of the team said that Iraq those not due affairs on the basis of what [words indistinct] of phenomena and that the international political game has no fixed formulas and that Iraq was in a state of defence of its policy and dignity, he said Iraq has provided full protection of the team, although the demonstrations were peaceful, members of the security have prevented protesters from approaching any members of the team. [sentence as received]

Mr. Amin said the Iraqi side has protested to the UN team for monitoring the ministry from the Sheraton Hotel.

Press See Bush-Led 'Escalation Campaign'

JN2507090392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0644 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—Iraqi papers issued here today are unanimous that threats to repeat military operations will not make Iraq change its stance or abandon its national sovereignty, independent decision-making, the respectability of its institutions, or the symbols of its sovereignty.

In their editorials today, the papers assert that the recent escalation campaign ignited by the Bush administration aims to promote his popularity and help him in the elections, considering that opinion polls have shown a decline in his popularity and the possibility that he might not be reelected.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH reviews the course of Iraq's development over the past 24 years and its concern for crystallizing a state of military industrialization that would enhance its national, independent approach toward liberation.

AL-QADISIYAH, speaking for the Defense Ministry, says that this independent revolutionary approach was not to the liking of the enemies of the revolution. This explains the circumstances that Iraq has been facing.

The paper emphasizes Iraq's position on the implementation of UN resolutions, saying that Iraq has dealt wisely and adroitly with the maneuvers of the inspection teams and cooperated with them in a positive spirit despite its conviction that the resolutions are unjust. The paper also notes that Iraq has met all its obligations.

The paper underlines some provocations by the these teams, especially the teams that were headed by U.S. nationals. It notes that these teams have gone too far in their conduct under direct instructions from the Bush administration and the CIA, thus persisting in their effort to humiliate and insult Iraq and deprive it of its national sovereignty.

AL-QADISIYAH says that the Iraqi Government has rejected the inspection of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry because it prejudices Iraq's honor and independence and is a serious precedent that could be a prelude to inspecting any Iraqi civilian facility or any headquarters of the symbols of national sovereignty.

The paper emphasizes the false claims that there were documents in the building related to strategic armament. It says that the members of the inspection team left yesterday for Bahrain, at a time when the Americans are insisting on the principle of inspection. This gives more logical evidence that the question is not related to searching for banned materials or documents, but that it is a new pretext to continue the conspiracy against Iraq and perpetuate the unjust economic blockade.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses Iraq's firm and principled rejection of any encroachment on its national security and sovereignty. It says: Our heroic people and Armed Forces are fully ready to confront all plots against our homeland's sovereignty and dignity.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ stresses the same position. It says: Criminal Bush is mistaken if he believes that he can force the Iraqis to abandon their entrenched convictions.

The paper accuses the White House of persistently seeking to ignite a new battle with Iraq. It says: Over the past weeks, the United States has been seeking to fabricate a battle between Iraq and the United Nations on the pretext of searching for strategic documents stored in the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: What happened in front of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry over the past days is an explosion of the Iraqi masses' anger against an intolerable case which encroaches on the Iraqi citizen's dignity and honor and his homeland's sovereignty.

The paper categorically denies allegations propagated by the Western news media and circles that an inspection team member was attacked by some demonstrators. It says that our masses have only used the language of denunciation and condemnation of [words indistinct] and its evil alliances, and that any other claims are pure slanders and distortions aimed at achieving known American objectives. It emphasizes that the language of threats, which is now escalating by the imperialist circles against us, will never be able to affect our national stands and independent decisions.

The newspaper BABIL says: All that is being hatched against Iraq to complete what took place in the past is targeting the person of President Saddam Husayn and his unique leadership, especially since he represents the pivot and the point where all Iraqis meet and agree no matter how their approaches vary, their aspirations differ, or their viewpoints clash regarding other homeland issues.

The paper notes to the imperialist circles' failure to destroy the people's higher interests neither end or affect the unique leadership of President Saddam Husayn in all Iraq. It says that they used to count on a group of agents and dwarfs, and on a group of changes that took place as a result of the blockade.

Concluding its editorial, BABIL says: Saddam Husayn is the point of agreement for all Iraqis. America is targeting a basic thing for the Iraqis. It does not want to see a living, steadfast, and honest example to guide the nationalists.

Opposition Figure on West's 'Political Game'

LD2607161792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The West's ultimatums and threats against Iraq will only provide Saddam with the opportunity to displace that country's mass destruction weapons.

These remarks were made by an opponent of the Iraqi regime in an interview with an IRNA correspondent. He said: If the objective of the United Nations and the multinational forces spearheaded by America was to annihilate Baghdad's destructive and chemical weapons, they would not have appointed a time for that purpose. He said: The UN experts' hesitation in entering Baghdad's Agriculture Ministry building provided Saddam's regime with the opportunity to displace all files and probably chemical and nuclear material and weapons. He stated: This is a political game the aim of which is to overshadow the massacre of the defenseless Iraqi Muslims in the southern marshes of that country, who are in dire need of hygiene and medical facilities as well as drinking water and food.

The Iraqi opponent added: On the basis of evidence previously obtained, the hyprocrites [Monafeqin; pejorative reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq] grouplet has begun large-scale cooperation with the Iraqi regime to conceal their destructive and chemical weapons from the UN inspectors and is engaged in displacing convoys of mass- destruction weapons by means of various trucks throughout Iraq. He said: With the collaboration of the Iraqi regime's army, this terrorist grouplet has intensified the suppression and massacre of Muslims in north and south of Iraq.

Saddam Chairs RCC-Iraq Command Meeting 26 Jul

JN2607141092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1342 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The president also presided over a joint meeting of the RCC and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party yesterday.

Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi attended both meetings.

Saddam Awards Medals to Senior Officials

JN2607151992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, today awarded Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and vice president, with medals of valor. His excellency also awarded Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, with two medals of valor.

His excellency, may God preserve him, also awarded Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister, with three medals of valor. President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, also awarded the following members of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, with two medals of valor each: Sa'di Mahdi Salih, 'Abd-al- Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, Mizhir Matni 'Awwad, and Fawzi Khalaf Ruzayq.

The honoring of the RCC members and party leaders represents the leader of the people's recognition of the role they have played in the service of the Arab nation and people. They also come in recognition of the courage and dedication they have exhibited in the Mother of Battles in defense of Arab honor and the Iraqis' dignity.

Addressing his comrades, his excellency the president said: May God elevate your people through you and may you be elevated through your people. May God elevate the faithful through you and may you be elevated through the faithful. May God raise the banner of principles for which you have striven in the Mother of Battles, and which continues to flutter high and will continue to flutter, God willing, as long as the Mother of Battles continues, and it is continuing because the enemy wants it to continue. When the enemies and the ranks of injustice and tyranny want the battle to continue, we have to mobilize the ranks of the faithful so that the banner remains aloft and so that the principles and dignity of our people remain intact, God willing.

In a speech, the president commented on some unscrupulous merchants' exploitation of current circumstances in the country by increasing the prices of staples. His excellency said:

If we lose the country, what is the value of money? Money derives its value from the glory of the homeland, and from the glory of the people in this homeland. We had hoped that the merchants would render services to the people as if they were part of the state's organs. However, regrettably, some merchants have disrupted their relationship with us. They began to whip the people. This means that this mean group of people has eventually joined the foreigner in this regard.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, RCC member and prime minister; fighter General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister; RCC member Mizban Khadr Hadi; Kamil Yasin and Nuri Faysal Shahir, members of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, attended the award-giving ceremony.

Decrees on Medal Awards

JN2607175792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 92

["Texts" of presidential decrees awarding medals to senior government officials on 26 July; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and vice president, in defending the nation's honor, glory, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and vice president, shall be granted three medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, in defending the nation's honor, glory, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, shall be granted two medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister, in defending the nation's honor, glory, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister, shall be granted three medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in defending the nation's honor, glory, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, shall be granted two medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in defending the nation's honor, glory, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, shall be granted two medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by Comrade Mizhir Matni 'Awwad, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in defending the nation's honor, glory, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Comrade Mizhir Matni 'Awwad, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, shall be granted two medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree:

In appreciation of the courage displayed by Fawzi Khalaf Ruzayq, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in defending the nation's honor, glory, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, in defense of great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Badges and Medals Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Comrade Fawzi Khalaf Ruzayq, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, shall be granted two medals of valor.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Saddam Addresses Awards Ceremony

JN2607201292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1805 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at a medal-awarding ceremony on 26 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] A clothes salesman told a buyer the following: If the Interior Ministry teams ask you about the price of a dress on which a 500-dinar price tag is attached, tell them that the price is 10 dinars. If they ask you whether the dress is expensive, tell them that you are getting it for nothing. [Saddam and others heard laughing]

Why is this so? Is it because we said that we would create the private sector if it were not to come into being of its own volition? We mean this. We mean to care for you. The state cares for you and will continue to do so until you begin to conduct yourself in a proper and patriotic manner, and not the contrary. The hope has been that

when it finds its country in a crisis, the private sector would not care about money. Money comes from the country. If the country is lost, from where would the money come? Money would then be worthless. Money derives its value from the pride of the homeland and from the pride of the people of the homeland. Our hope was for merchants to put all of their money and commodities on the market, to offer people commodities at cost, and to say: We are working to achieve the satisfaction of God and to show love for the homeland and people, since the people are experiencing hard times. What we have is abundant. What would happen if we were to sell commodities at cost when the issue that preoccupies the mind is for us to continue serving you? The fighter serves at the front; the construction worker is building bridges, roads, and plants; our contribution would be through the services that we could render to people as if we were a state organ, offering people commodities at cost. Could this people forget such conduct? If somebody could entertain the idea of hurting a merchant, people would then prevent such a thing, contending that this merchant took a position similar to a fighter's. They would tell the fighter the following: You were fighting while this merchant was defending our backs. He did not allow Iraqi women to go in need of clothes or food. How could you forget such a stand from this merchant?

Regrettably, some merchants harmed the relationship with us. We had reserved for them a certain position; our hopes regarding their expected conduct were different. However, some of them were carried away by the misgivings of the devil in the full sense of the word. They have begun to whip the people and continued their lashings until they began to affect their patriotic sentiments. They persisted with their lashing. This means that these lowly people are taking part in the efforts the foreigners have been making to achieve their purposes. Even if joint planning was not involved, the end result is that they are siding with the foreigners.

Why was rice sold for 9 dinars yesterday, and now for 4.50 dinars? Do you want to say to bad people that they will remain bad until the law is used to break the necks of those who do not deserve to remain alive? We addressed you with kindness.

After you adopted your decision at the Iraq Command and the Revolution Command Council [RCC], it has taken us all these long months to discuss the situation. You remember that I talked to them twice. I addressed them, saying: O you people, you lost the people. But do not press us too hard. We are your brothers. The young men among us are your sons, while older people are either your brothers or fathers. Show concern. We do not want to lose anybody. But, do not pressure us. We are not the kind of people who condone pressure.

They are supposed to weigh their words. They are living among us. They are not foreigners who may say we do not know this leadership. It may be understandable for a foreigner to misunderstand. Why should one fail to understand when one is the son of this land? Make such profit that may please God. Consider texts in the Koran and the Bible and abide by them. We are not saying that you should not make a profit. We are saying that you can make profit provided it is within limits acceptable to God. As long as you are within that margin, you are free, because the people will be happy.

Go ahead and make reasonable profits under the current difficult circumstances, but you should not humiliate people. We would have liked patriotic merchants to impose their will on everyone. I call on the big merchants rather than the state to dictate prices. I wish they would come to the government and say that such and such merchants are blackening our names. We tried to deal with them and yet they continue with their abuses. I hope they will not blacken our name. The good people can report to the state. I am saying this on an occasion dear to our hearts—the honoring of our comrades on the road and in the struggle. I was supposed to focus on this subject, but it must be seen as a topic with popular interest. We have high hopes that courts of law will sentence any Iraqi citizen. At the same time, we in the RCC and the party leadership are happy with just decisions. On my way here, some officials asked that others stand trial. My answer was no. What is meant is not so much how many people are hurt. Rather, what is meant is for us to learn a lesson. After courts of law pass sentences, we will decide whether those who ought to gain win or do not win.

I say again: I have great hope that everybody will benefit. I have great hope that everybody will benefit and review their acts. All should search for the needs of their people, particularly in terms of foreign commodities. They should not flood the market with magnificent things needed by only a few; they should be interested in the exports needed by the majority. We do not want them to display a dress costing 5,000 dinars. This is destructive. We need a dress at reasonable prices so that when it is displayed people can buy it. Let it be sold at three different prices, so that the people with low, medium, and high incomes can buy it. The gaps should not be big. The merchants should not spoil some people and lead them through attractions and poverty to a state of corruption, which causes us pain when we see that they have fallen in it. Let us live happily. How can a person in Iraq live happily at the expense of others' happiness?

Our role and our message in the world, about which we speak and which we mean in every letter, is that we, as Iraqis, will only be happy when we feel that all the world is happy. And if we want to speak about the people who are close to us, we will say that we will feel a genuine happiness only when the Arabs are happy—all the Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf. How can the owners of this great message, whose position is known to God and the people, accept something which they call happiness—which is a false thing—at the expense of the dignity, state of affairs, and happiness of their people.

It is our habit to be patient and to accept part of the sacrifice when there is a need for this. We should also be patient, even with those who deviate from the path, hoping that they will return to the path as they are our sons. Our responsibility toward them is to bring them back to the path. However, when we see that the deviant person insists on this deviation despite the warning, orientation, and appeal; and when we find that his deviation will have a negative effect on society and its ethics and morale, on his bravery, or on his nationalism and steadfastness in confronting the foreigners' injustice as a result of the blockade, we will revolt from inside. We hope that Almighty God will give us more patience to control this revolution so that it will be only against those who deserve it and those who went beyond the limits and rejected the advice. We hope that God will give us more patience to provide a situation in which those who deviated will return to the correct path.

In one of the Arab and Islamic battles of early Islam, one of the Muslim leaders—whom I cannot recall right now, but you can help me remember his name—asked for the caliph to send him men. The caliph sent him men with a message that we have sent you this number of men and the so-and-so person who is equivalent to one division, in accordance with their own formations at that time.

Yesterday, when we were discussing the general situation [as heard], I told you that you do not have to be astonished if any one of the construction legions asked me to provide it with an additional legion, for I will tell them that comrade Tariq 'Aziz, comrade Mizban, comrade Nuri, comrade Sa'di, comrade Mahdi, or any other comrade from the RCC or the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party will come to you, because he along equals a legion. May God spare the Iraqis and our Armed Forces any situation like the one I am talking about. If the Army, in any place, needs a corps to reinforce its capabilities, I will tell it that I will send you one of our RCC or Command comrades. He would have a regiment with him, providing that he equals a corps plus a regiment and faith backed by full confidence. Some Iraqis would say how can you, Saddam Husayn, consider an RCC or a Command member, after assessing the situation, to be a division or corps for the purposes of construction or of defending the great principles? I will tell them that by encouraging men, bolstering their morale, and instilling in them the spirit of faith and zeal, he will put inside every one of them an additional man or more, will put inside every fighter an additional fighter or more, and inside every builder an additional one of the builders of bridges, roads, factories, and farms. As much as skills of mobilization and organization God will give him, he will mobilize people in their places for the purposes of construction in a way equal to a division or a corps, depending on his enthusiasm. What counts is Almighty God's help. This has always been the way I view you. May God elevate your people through you and may you be elevated through your people. May God elevate the faithful through you and may you be elevated through the faithful. May God raise the banner of principles for which you have striven in the Mother of Battles, and which continues to flutter high and will continue to flutter, God willing, as long as the Mother of Battles continues, and it is continuing because the enemy wants it to continue. When the enemies and the ranks of injustice and tyranny want the battle to continue, we have to mobilize the ranks of the faithful so that the banner remains aloft and so that the principles and dignity of our people remain intact, God willing. May God greet you.

Details of Attempt on Saddam's Life Recounted

PM2407155692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Jul 92 pp1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Khalid 'Abdallah Tried To Reach for His Pistol, So Saddam Kamil Killed Him With His Machine Gun"]

[Text] Paris, London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—A report from Baghdad prepared by informed sources, a copy of which was obtained by SAWT AL-KUWAYT, has revealed details of what happened on Sunday, 19 July at the presidential palace at Karadat Maryam [as transliterated] in Baghdad, following which rumors spread about Saddam Husayn's assassination. The report reveals that the attempt did actually take place, and that it is a link in a series of conflicts within the close group around Iraq's ruler. The most important details of the report are published below:

On Sunday, 19 July Saddam Husayn's half brother, Barzan al-Tikriti, went to Saddam Husayn's home at the presidential palace in Karadat Maryam, carrying an "international" message to the effect that what is happening in northern and southern Iraq poses a threat to its territorial integrity and therefore requires that emergency measures be taken: first and formemost, that Saddam relinquish power peacefully and concentrate on the party, with guarantees to protect his life, his family, and wealth. A heated conversation took place between the two, whereupon Khalid 'Abdallah, Barzan's aide, went for his gun, as did Saddam Kamil—Saddam's son-in-law, husband of his middle daughter, Ghadah, and the person directly responsible for his protection (he is also Husayn Kamil's brother)—who shot him with his machine gun, killing Khalid, a retired officer, immediately. Following the gunfire the alarm went off in the area. It is designed for that purpose. As a result, thousands of protection personnel and bodyguards spread through the area to take emergency precautions. The report cited the articles written by Barzan al-Tikriti, in which he urged that a new page be turned from the past. The close group around Saddam Husayn is currently divided into two conflicting factions—one led by Barzan al-Tikriti and the other by Husayn Kamil. The report adds that after his return from Geneva, where he represented Iraq at the United Nations, Barzan al-Tikriti openly leveled many criticisms at Husayn Kamil, who is responsible for squandering billions of dollars in the

"military industrialization" adventure. He also criticized Saddam's sons, 'Udayy and Qusayy, who are allied with Husayn Kamil, for their provocative shows of strength against many people. Barzan visited tribal chiefs in al-Anbar, Tikrit, and al-Mahmudiyah and listened to their demands. He also made many promises to them, emphasizing the need to make radical changes. The report also points out that Barzan draws his strength from an alliance comprising his brothers, Watban (interior minister) and Sab'awi (who is in charge of intelligence.) The report links this conflict with Saddam Husayn's recent visit to Tikrit in a bid to "run the conflict" between the two conflicting wings.

As for the murdered Khalid 'Abdallah, the reports identify him as one of Barzan's prominent aides, as his personal secretary, and as a retired officer who held the rank of first lieutenant until 1984 and who comes from al-Ramadi.

SAIRI Leader on U.S. Attempt To Oust Saddam

NC2507171592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has denounced Jalal Talabani's statement that federalism is the only possible solution for the region. Al-Hakim emphasized his rejection of any attempt to partition Iraq.

He pointed out that the Kurdish parties have said that they do not intend to harm Iraq's territorial integrity because it would not server any party's interest.

At a news conference in Tehran today, al-Hakim announced that the Iraqi opposition will hold a general congress to determine a new strategy against the ostracized tyrant's regime. He explained that the congress, for which no date or venue have yet been set, will proclaim the formation of a national council.

Sayyid al-Hakim noted that the United States is seeking to topple the ostracized tyrant Saddam Husayn with the help of and in coordination with the Iraqi Army. He said that it is likely that the United States will direct precision air strikes against Baghdad.

Sayyid al-Hakim announced that ferocious fighting is raging between the tyrant's forces and the popular forces in the southern marshlands. He announced that the ostracized regime is using chemical weapons and poisonous bombs against civilians in al-Basrah.

SAIRI Leader on 'Major Rebellion'

NC2507184092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1732 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has disclosed that a major rebellion has taken place in the Iraqi Republican Guard's Hammurabi Forces, which Saddam sent to the al-'Amarah marshlands to [word indistinct] the Shiite (?revolt), and the Arab clans in southern Iraq following their participation in the recent coup attempt in Baghdad.

Al-Hakim, speaking at a news conference in Tehran today, reported that Iraqi Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and his chief of staff left for the area to deal with the development.

He added that an all-out war is raging over an area of 50,000 sq km in the southern marshlands between Saddam's army and the Republican Guard on one side and the clansmen and revolutionaries of the southern uprising on the other.

Al-Hakim asserted that the Iraqi president's forces used napalm bombs and chemical weapons against the revolutionaries.

'Large Group of Officers' Reportedly Arrested

NC2407173692 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The dictatorial authorities have arrested a large group of officers in Bayji and Tikrit belonging to the al-Jubur clan on charges of participating in an attempt to assassinate Saddam Husayn. According to our correspondent, the attempt took place in Bayji on Friday [17 July].

Talabani—Opposition 'Ready To Topple' Saddam

JN2407201492 (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Ankara—[Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader] Jalal Talabani told a BBC correspondent in the Turkish capital of Ankara that the UN resolutions cannot be implemented as long as Saddam Husayn is in power. He said that the Iraqi opposition groups are now ready to topple him as they are cooperating with [words indistinct] and the allied forces, as he put it. Jalal Talabani also said that he has documents indicating that Iraqi intelligence was preparing to launch attacks in northern Iraq, including one attack intended to kill French President Francois Mitterrand's wife.

Jalal Talabani [words indistinct] with those in charge of these attacks and obtained from them confessions, including a testimony by a Kurd that he received [words indistinct] for his attack on the UN office in al-Sulaymaniyah. Talabani will bring this evidence with him to the United States, where he will hold talks with the U.S. secretary of state next week.

12 Scud Launchers Moved From Baghdad to Karkuk

NC2407174092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The Iraqi authorities transported 12 Scud missile launchers and other related equipment from Baghdad to

Karkuk yesterday. It is believed the Iraqi authorities are trying to hide these launchers from UN inspectors.

Battles, Successes Southern Marshlands Reported

14th Brigade 'Wiped Out'

NC2507150392 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1322 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Despite the ongoing fierce clashes in our proud marshlands and the massive concentrations which Saddam's failing regime brought in during its latest offensive, the popular forces, supported by Almighty God, have made Saddam's attacks founder on the rock of the people's steadfastness and firmness.

On Wednesday afternoon, our brave mujahidin on the (al-Dawwarah) axis completely wiped out the 14th Brigade, killing or wounding more than 300 of Saddam's mercenaries, burning 31 military vehicles, and destroying four rocket launchers and four 57-mm antiaircraft guns. Our heroic mujahidin also captured five 60-mm mortars. We will provide you with more information as it becomes available.

Saddam's fighter aircraft continue to fly (?desperately) over the populated areas of our kin in the homeland's southern marshlands. Seven Sukhoy and one MiG fighter dropped hundreds of incendiary containers [hawiyat] and rockets on populated areas in al-Salam, [place name indistinct], (al-Dawwarah), [place names indistinct] for 10 hours last Tuesday and Wednesday. The brutal bombardment of [place name indistinct] saw scores of houses destroyed as 200 incendiary bombs and rockets fell in that area in just one day.

No precise information on civilian casualties in the marshlands is available; however, preliminary reports indicate that hundreds, mostly women and children, have been hit.

Aircraft Said Dropping Napalm

LD2607102392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The army of the Iraqi regime has launched extensive attacks against the residents of the southern marshlands of that country over the past few days. Iraqi opposition sources today said: Iraqi aircraft and helicopters dropped napalm bombs on the marshes of southern Iraq. Extensive areas have been set ablaze and a large number of the residents of the region have been martyred. The fires are mainly in the al-Watiyah, Umm al-'Ush, 'Azmuzar, and al-Hajiyah [names as heard] regions of the al-'Amarah marshes.

According to the same report, Iraqi Republican Guards attacked a number regions in the al-'Amarah and al-Nasiriyah marshes yesterday with artillery and gunboats.

21 Jul Army Attack Repulsed

NC2607150692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1328 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Our valiant popular forces stopped the advance of a [word indistinct] seven-pronged offensive by the tyrant's forces against our forces' strongholds in the southern marshlands at 0700 last Tuesday. Intensive and indiscriminate bombardment by large- caliber long-range artillery, [word indistinct] tank guns, helicopter gunships, and combat aircraft paved the way for the attack.

Despite the fierce fighting, our heroic mujahidin thwarted a Saddamist attack carried out by the 19th Commando Division on 22 July against the (?Abu Subah) area near al-Baghdadiyah in al-'Amarah marshlands. The attackers suffered heavy losses, which eyewitnesses say included 200 dead including several officers and noncommissioned officers. Many more were captured. In addition, dozens of military vehicles and other equipment were destroyed.

Our forces also captured a large number of various types of small- and medium-caliber weapons.

Clandestine Notes Aircraft Camouflaged, Concealed

NC2607190792 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] On 20 July, the Iraqi regime placed its repressive services on type-C alert and distributed weapons to party members due to the tense situation in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi MiG-21 crashed near Baghdad on 22 July, killing the pilot, Captain Dirgham Tayyib Jasim al-Juburi. All military flights over the area were suspended after the incident.

Fearing an attack by the allied states' aircraft, the regime has camouflaged and concealed its planes to prevent their detection.

Study Shows Kuwait 'Natural Extension' of Iraq

JN2607195292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—The Gulf Studies Center at al- Basrah University has disclosed that as a natural extension of Iraqi territory, the area known as Kuwait is part of Iraq.

In a book it released with the title: "Border Demarcation Between International Pressure and the Iraqi Right," the center points out that the conspiracy of delineating borders came to supplement a series of conspiracies led by the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

Reviewing the book today, AL-THAWRAH said the British themselves understand the fact that Kuwait is part of Iraq. Initially they did not pay attention to such

things as borders. Their presence primarily focused on fostering relations with the al-Sabah family.

The book, as AL-THAWRAH reviews, features important documents showing Kuwait to have been a district of al-Basrah. When the British came, they sought to chop off this part of Iraq and establish the influence of a man called Mubarak in the region. They drove him to kill his brothers Jarrah and Muhammad so that he may become the Ottoman district officer hired by Britain.

The families of the two slain brothers, the documents add, filed a complaint against Mubarak to the then ruler of al-Basrah, as shown in court records. Mubarak himself came to al-Basrah to discuss the matter. He emphasized that Kuwait was part of al-Basrah as reported by newspapers in al-Basrah at the time.

The book highlights the fact that the area known as Kuwait is a geological extension of al-Basrah's territory, as illustrated by excavations and Arab and international marine geological maps.

The book contains damning evidence about the subversive role played by Britain and the al-Sabah family since the beginning of the century to cut Kuwait off from Iraq and install the al-Sabah family as its illegal rulers.

The book notes that in their old correspondence and maps the British never made a reference to a "State of Kuwait." British Foreign Office and library records show the Kuwait area to have been affiliated with al-Basrah and Iraq, and to have been dealt with accordingly.

Having realized that it would be possible to recruit the al-Sabah family and use it against the motherland to create spheres of influence and advance its strategic interests, the British Government decided to slice off the Kuwait area from Iraq and use it for machinations and subversion.

Arab League Asked To Censure Turkey's Ozal

JN2707075392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0712 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (INA)—Iraq has asked the Arab League to condemn Turkish President Turgut Ozal's recent frank call for Turkey's intervention in the Kurdistan region, northern Iraq, which is considered blatant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

This came in a letter sent by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The letter was delivered by Iraq's representative to the Arab League in Cairo yesterday.

In his letter, the foreign minister said that Ozal's call, which came in his speech at the conclusion of a meeting for the Pashkint group [name as received] on 13 July, conflicted with the principles of the UN Charter and rules of international law. He called for condemning the Turkish call, proceeding from the principles of the Arab League Charter and joint Arab solidarity.

The foreign minister added that Ozal's call conflicted with his responsibilities as president of Turkey, which is located in a sensitive region that is threatened by many ambitions at this stage, noting that several tendentious international parties are trying to tear apart the unity of the states in the region and destabilize their security.

Ba'th Member Calls for Releasing Assets in Italy

JN2607130992 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, July 26, INA—Member of the Iraq's Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur called on the Italian political and humanitarian organizations, parties, figures and parliamentarians to exercise pressure on their government to release the Iraqi frozen assets at the Italian banks to help Iraq buy food and medicine for its people.

During a meeting with the delegation of the Italian society "A Bridge to Baghdad" headed by Mr. Alberto Fabiu, Mr. 'Abd-al-Ghafur said that unfreezing the Iraqi assets and lifting the unjust blockade would leave positive effects on the future of Iraqi-Italian relations and serve the interests of the people of both countries.

Mr. Fabiu said that the shortage of food and medicine made it necessary for all to act seriously to put an end to the blockade.

Government Agrees to Peace Talks in Washington

TA2507173992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] The next round of Middle East peace talks will be held in Washington and not Rome. This was confirmed by the Italian Foreign Ministry, which said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had informed Italy of the change in venue. Baker said he would like the talks to resume in two weeks time. The secretary of state also said that while he makes no distinction between political and security settlements this does not include security installations to protect Israel. He said these were authorized by the Security Council after the Six-Day and Yom Kippur Wars.

In Jerusalem, Israeli sources say they would prefer to see the negotiations resume in September in Rome as originally scheduled, but they added, Israel will attend the talks next month in Washington.

Cabinet Deliberations

TA2607133592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The cabinet has decided to accept the U.S. proposal to resume the bilateral talks with the Arabs next month in Washington. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the prime minister will decide on the new composition of committees slated to leave for the negotiations.

The cabinet also decided to raise public transportation prices by 12 percent. [passage omitted]

Also today, the cabinet established a committee of directors general, headed by Shim'on Sheves, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, that will reassess the classification of development areas.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 26 July, however, reports that "the cabinet secretary said that there is still no agreement on moving the peace talks from Rome to Washington and to hold them next month. The issue is still being considered. Following the cabinet session, Police Affairs Minister Moshe Shahal said that Israel intends to accept the U.S. proposal to resume the peace talks in Washington next month. Shahal said that the government intended to accept the invitation and stick to the agenda."]

Shahal Comments

TA2607154692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] It is still unclear whether Israel will agree to attend the bilateral talks in Washington in August or will insist on the date and place agreed upon, Rome in September. Political sources in Jerusalem said that Prime Minister Rabin tends to return a negative answer to the proposal to bring the talks forward to Washington in the first half of August. Although an official position has still not been adopted, Israel was somewhat surprised to be the last to hear about Baker's intention to bring the talks forward. Baker had already closed the matter with the Arabs, and had even informed the Italians that the talks were being transferred to Washington, while Jerusalem had to wait until today to hear about the plan.

The sources said that Israel opposes the Baker proposal for several reasons: The teams are still not properly prepared, the proposed date clashes with Rabin's visit to the United States, and Israel's preferred venue is Europe and not the United States. Still, we should not make haste, Israel has still not said no to Baker, and it is doubtful that it will. Its stand is more an expression of disappointment than an outright refusal. In today's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Rabin made do with reporting on the proposal, without providing Israel's response. The matter has still not been finalized, the prime minister told the meeting.

Minister Moshe Shahal received the impression from the debate that Israel will be going to Washington in August.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] We said in the government's basic guidelines that we are interested in taking a serious attitude to the political process and that we want it to be ongoing, and that is what we will do.

[Gutman] Has Israel agreed to go to Washington on 10 August?

[Shahal] We plan to accept the invitation and meet the timetable. [end recording]

In the cabinet's political debate, the prime minister and foreign minister once again made clear that the elections in the territories will be only for an administrative council and not a legislative assembly. Rabin noted that the negotiations will be held in accordance with the rules set in Madrid, and he added that the Palestinians' efforts to change the framework have been rejected by Israel and the United States.

Efforts To Avoid 'Linkage'

TA2707044792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] Contacts with the U.S. Administration about the date on which the peace talks will resume are to begin today. An official invitation has not yet been received here in Jerusalem, while the administration prepares to host the talks starting in the last week of August. Jerusalem has received several different dates. One of them, cited by the secretary of state in Manila, was 10 August.

Despite the talk that the date the Americans have initiated will be accepted, and despite the spirit of yesterday's cabinet session and remarks made after it implying that Jerusalem is open to the U.S. offer—as the

hours go by, there is a clear tendency in Jerusalem to reject 10 August in Washington.

Several reasons are cited for this coming decision. Prime Minister Rabin does not want the dates of his U.S. visit and meeting with President Bush to coincide with the peace talks. He believes that it is not good and that a linkage might be established between the loan guarantees and the political process and mainly between the talks and freezing the settlements. The prime minister rejects outright any such linkage. Israel, therefore, wants the two matters to be separated. That is why, if an offer to hold the talks on 10 August in Washington is made, Israel will say no.

Other issues are cited in support of this stand, such as the prime minister's very tight schedule or the need to man the delegations anew. For example, a new head has to be appointed for the delegation negotiating with Syria. So far, it has been headed by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office in the Shamir government. In addition, there are American matters that could have an effect on the talks, such as the Republican Party convention, to be held in mid-August in Dallas. All of these are reasons that, if an invitation for 10 August talks arrives, the response will be negative.

No official invitation has arrived yet, and orderly contacts on this will begin today. In any event, this is the Israeli reaction to the 10 August date.

Negotiations on Date, Duration

TA2707101092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] Israel is willing to hold a single round of talks in Washington at the end of August. The precise date and duration of the talks have not yet been determined. The initiative to move the talks from Rome to Washington belongs to James Baker and was made after it became apparent that the Italians will not be ready to host the talks next month. Baker initiated this move after being told that both Israel and the Arabs are willing to facilitate the political process.

Jerusalem asserts that continuous negotiations should be held in the region for, among other things, very practical reasons such as the need occasionally to travel to Israel for consultations. This is despite the belief that Yasir 'Arafat could settle in the PLO Embassy in Rome, which he will not be able to do in Washington.

Yitzhaq Rabin will go to the United States in the second week of August and will apparently meet President Bush in Maine on 10 and 11 August.

'Smell of Coercion' in U.S. Proposal on Talks

TA2607105292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Bush's Round of Talks"]

[Text] James Baker has not yet stepped down as secretary of state to roll up his sleeves and manage the presidential election campaign. However, his latest moves show that he is more worried about the electoral needs of the President there than he is concerned about the situation here.

This is the only possible interpretation of his announcement/decree that the bilateral talks will not resume in Rome in September, as had been scheduled, but in Washington in two weeks. President Bush would seem to believe that hosting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the White House and the announcement he is expected to make on granting the loan guarantees to Israel are not enough. Because of his political troubles, the President needs to stage a more impressive and media-oriented show, one that involves the resumption, acceleration, and possible surge of the talks under his auspices in the U.S. capital.

In Cairo, the day after his talks with Baker, Rabin talked about holding the talks in Rome in September. This means that he was unaware of the change in date and venue that was decided two days later in Damascus.

A government that advocates continuous and accelerated negotiations has no reason to object to Baker's proposal, except that his decision—which was not coordinated with us—has an unpleasant smell of coercion to take part in some kind of "Bush round of talks" in Washington.

Nevertheless, a government that talks about making peace rather than about a peace process would be well advised to instruct its delegates to the Washington talks to take its partners and the administration by surprise with a daring and courageous proposal. Given that even Moshe Arens, the outgoing defense minister, has concluded that Israel should get out of Gaza as fast as it can, why should the architects of the "Gaza first" notion—who currently hold key positions in the Rabin government—not pave the way for the implementation of this idea in exchange, of course, for a significant concession from the other side?

If Baker surprises us, why should we not surprise him?

Bid To Bar Jerusalemites From Talks Criticized

TA2707094292 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Jul 92 p 2

[Amnon Barzilay commentary: "Labor in the Footsteps of the Likud"]

[Excerpts] At yesterday's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented Israel's three conditions

for participating in multilateral peace talks attended by diaspora Palestinians. Two of the three conditions—the ban on Palestine National Council members and an agreement not to discuss the right of return—had been expected. The third condition—a ban on the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs—is more than surprising; it is both disappointing and incompatible with the Labor positions, and particularly those of Rabin himself. [passage omitted]

What has happened to Rabin's stands, which have been apparently adopted by Peres? Rabin is still entertaining the hope that Tzomet will join the government. Until Tzomet does, however, the government will be playing into the hands of radical Arabs who claim that there is no difference between the Likud and Labor.

It is common knowledge that the real leaders of the Arabs in the territories live in East Jerusalem. The formula presented yesterday is reminiscent of irrelevant stands adopted by an obsolete government, whose defeat in the recent elections can be attributed to those very stands, among other things. The position regarding East Jerusalem Arabs as presented yesterday is artificial. Neither Rabin nor Peres really holds those views. Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni voiced her reservations about the boycott of East Jerusalem Arabs. Aloni's remarks reflected the stand of a large majority—if not all—of Labor ministers. When a debate is held on this issue, the cabinet will do well to call upon the prime minister to recant and to repeal this unnecessary ban.

Palestinians Leave for Amman To Consult With PLO

TA2607150692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The members of the supreme political committee headed by Dr. Sari Nusaybah left for Amman over the weekend for consultations with PLO representatives. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the security forces prevented Ahmad Shraym, the committee's deputy chairman, from leaving for Amman. He spent 21 years in Israeli jails for security offenses.

'No Special Preparations' for Iraq Crisis

TA2607083592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The defense establishment and the Army are making no special preparations in light of U.S. declarations about a possible attack on Iraq, senior Army sources told 'AL HAMISHMAR yesterday.

According to these sources, the likelihood of a U.S. military operation in Iraq is minimal and even more so is the likelihood of Iraq attacking Israel in the event of a U.S. operation.

The military sources said that the defense establishment follows events in Iraq and the U.S. declarations as a matter of routine. Nevertheless, they added, there would seem to be no room for any special preparations at the moment.

No Direct Threat Noted

TA2607174692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Military sources believe that right now there seems to be no reason for special preparations in Israel. The sources said that unlike in the past, Saddam Husayn is not directly threatening Israel and contrary to evaluations on the eve of the Gulf war that Scuds would be launched at Israel, this time they are much more cautious. We should also remember that Saddam Husayn has already gone to the brink four or five times since the Gulf war, and in all the previous confrontations with UN inspectors he caved in at the last moment.

In reference to Israel, it seems that even if there is a U.S. attack, the chances are slight that a U.S. blow on Iraq would trigger an attack on Israel. The interests which led Iraq to try to force Israel to react in 1991 no longer exist. The situation in western Iraq has changed significantly, and the scope and quality of the land forces there now are inferior to those they had 18 months ago. An Iraqi attack with aircraft or surface-to-surface missiles will not constitute a real threat since their air defense system has been penetrated and has been largely destroyed. It is not inconceivable that Iraq has managed to hide launchers for long-range surface-to-surface missiles, whether Scuds or al-Husayns in the western part of the country, which it might launch.

In reference to nonconventional weapons, it is unreasonable to expect that Iraq will disclose what it still has left through an attack on Israel. In any case, the defense establishment is planning an October campaign to exchange gas masks for upgraded ones. The concept is still to prepare sealed rooms or protected areas. Anyway, the defense establishment said that if necessary it will be ready to replace the gas masks prior to October.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 26 July adds that Knesset Member Mordekhay Gur, "who has been designated deputy defense minister, also does not believe that the situation is so serious that hard decisions must be taken now, but he cautions that Israel may have to take some decisions soon given the volatile situation." Asked whether Israel will have time to prepare itself if there is an Iraqi attack, Gur says in a recorded passage: "First of all, I believe that the defense authorities have already discussed all that because for several days it has been no secret that the Americans have been speaking about possible action that they will undertake against the Iraqis."]

Army Ordered To Apologize to Palestinian Delegate

TA2707101392 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has ordered the defense establishment to apologize to Palestinian delegate Dr. Zakariya al-Agha for the event in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] detail broke into his home at night so as to set up an observation point on his balcony. According to senior Army sources, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha had written to Yitzhaq Rabin complaining of the conduct of the soldiers, who arrived without notice in the middle of the night and searched his apartment, leaving in the end without finding anything. [passage omitted]

Soldiers Suspended in Death of Arab Boy 25 Jul

TA2607044292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] A pipe bomb exploded this morning near Herodion, south of Jerusalem, but no one was hurt. Police say the bomb exploded near the Arab village of Umm-Tuba as an Israeli vehicle was passing. A passenger in the vehicle shot several times in the air.

Three cars were torched in Jerusalem late last night. Two of the cars were rented and had been parked near Zion Gate. Earlier, another car was set alight near Lion Gate. Police also say that at the Cinematheque parking lot, the windows of four other cars were smashed.

Shots were fired at an Army lookout post in the Gaza Strip yesterday. No one was injured. The shots from an automatic weapon lasted several minutes. Soldiers at the lookout post returned fire.

Five petrol bombs were thrown last night at army and civilian targets in the territories. No one was injured.

Three soldiers involved in yesterday's shooting incident in which a four-year-old Palestinian boy was killed have been temporarily suspended from activity. The boy and his father were traveling in a vehicle, which turned down a side street to avoid an Army roadblock. The soldiers at the roadblock, thinking there were suspects in the car, shot in the air and then at the vehicle, killing the boy. The three soldiers were suspended pending an investigation into the incident.

European Restrictions on Arms Exports 'Stricter'

TA2607091092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jul 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by defense correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Restrictions imposed by West European countries on permits for defense exports to Israel have grown stricter since the Gulf war. According to defense establishment and defense industries officials as well as private arms dealers, Israel is included on a list of problematic countries to which arms sales are avoided. Although no embargo has been formally declared, procedures governing the issuance of export permits practically preclude the purchase of West European military equipment and materiel.

Most of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] weapons are manufactured either locally or in the United States; however, the IDF also uses European equipment, such as antiaircraft artillery and naval guns. To operate these systems, some of which are outdated, the defense establishment needs West European spare parts and ammunition.

To purchase relatively simple weapons items and ammunition, Defense Ministry procurement officials often require Israeli and foreign middlemen, who charge commissions for the procurement deals.

Countries that have restricted exports to Israel over the past year include Germany, Britain, Italy, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. The restrictions are legally valid: Some of the countries had in the past imposed an embargo on Israel, which has never been officially lifted; others, such as Germany, prohibit arms exports to "tense regions."

France, which does not usually encumber its weapons sales, has for years applied stalling tactics in granting permits for defense exports to Israel, although Israeli elements say the French policy has not grown stricter in the past year.

Some of the countries obstructing arms exports to Israel have for many years maintained good ties with the defense establishment and purchased large quantities of Israeli weapons and ammunition. Moreover, European defense industries, whose financial status has suffered as a result of the crisis in international weapon markets, are interested in selling to Israel. Yet these elements have no influence on the export restrictions, which depend on political decisions.

Defense establishment elements cite two main reasons for the European stand:

—A desire to punish Israel for the stands promoted by the Shamir government, which determined that the EC has no place in the peace process and which opposed the inclusion of the EC in the arms control team in the framework of the multilateral talks.

—European countries' desire to show the absence of bias toward Israel to the detriment of Arab countries, to which exports had been limited in the wake of the Gulf war and the revelations concerning the involvement of European countries in Iraq's development of weapons of mass destruction.

Defense establishment elements further assert that objections by European countries, led by France, prevented Israel from joining the MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime], which aims to limit long-range missile proliferation and the development and manufacture of missile technologies.

The MTCR was joined largely by EC countries which, according to the same elements, barred Israel's inclusion with the tacit consent of the United States, which wanted to hinder the existence of an independent Israeli missile industry. [passage omitted]

Shin Bet Gives Protection to Threatened Ministers

TA2507073192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Our correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned that the Shin Bet has given protection to several ministers and briefed them on how to face the threats against their well-being to which they have been subjected following the decision to cut down construction in the territories. The two most threatened ministers are Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer.

Ben-Eli'ezer on Construction Policy, Settlers

TA2507105592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by 'Adi Talmor—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] In view of the debate between the Israeli left and right about what should be frozen or built, what other cancellations or freezes are planned for the coming days?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I do not foresee an additional freeze. I expect one thing only: I want the residents of the State of Israel—including those living in the territories—to realize that this is a government with new guidelines, and that it intends to put all its efforts into the tasks and goals it has undertaken. That is what we are going to do. If you ask me what other things will happen as a result, I do not know. I can tell you one thing, however; my friends the settlers who live there should know that our acts stem from the commitments we made to the public. We intend to protect their wellbeing and security. We have do not intend to forsake a single Jew who lives in the territories.

[Talmor] Nevertheless, it seems that they are not convinced by your comforting remarks. They even threaten to take violent action against the freeze. How do you plan to deal with that problem?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I know those people and highly appreciate them. I spent six years in the territories—four years as commander of Judaea and Samaria and two years as coordinator of government activities in the territories. I know them and respect most of them. I know they are rational people. There are a few, their leaders, who have always tried to agitate them and even dictate the government's policies and order of priorities. They employed violent means, even when the Likud was in power, as I recall. This will not happen here. They may struggle for anything they want. They may have their say. They must do so in legitimate ways, however, while observing law and order. Whoever attempts to launch a campaign of threats should know that this government will, first of all, treat them with respect. At the same time it will not discriminate between them and others. We will deal with any violation of law and order with the utmost severity.

[Talmor] Are the decisions to freeze construction—those already taken and those that may be taken in the future—enough to receive the U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] That question has recurred several times. Let me tell you one thing: There is no connection between this and the guarantees! The decisions were made on my second day in office. We did not want to play games. In one of my first meetings with the settlers' leaders, I told them that we have two options: We can either place everything on the table or play games. I was glad to hear their response. That is why I put everything on the table. There is no connection with Baker's visit and none with the receipt of the loan guarantees. This government—at least its leader and major component, Labor—has been speaking of political settlements, a new order of national priorities, and of accelerating the political process for more than six months.

[Talmor] It is our impression, however, that Baker does not accept your distinction between political and security settlements.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] That is yet another proof of our point. As you said, it makes no impression on the Americans.

[Talmor] Does that mean you will have to freeze everything?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] We will have to make our moves, regardless of the U.S. guarantees. We have to know what this government can and must do with the means at its disposal. It is sovereign and determines its own order of priorities. I hope this government, headed by Yitzhaq Rabin, manages to obtain the loan guarantees. Nevertheless, our decision is not designed to please anyone. You saw for yourself that Meretz Knesset Member Dedi Zucker and his party yesterday berated me as well. They are not pleased with this very decision because we are continuing to build some 8,700 housing units that are currently in various stages of construction in the territories. I repeat: We make our decisions based on what we have at our disposal. We hope we get the guarantees, but they did not influence our decisions at all.

[Talmor] Will that be enough?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I do not know. The way I see it, the decision on whether the guarantees are given is being

discussed by the U.S. Congress and Administration. I know that the Congress and the White House today understand that this government does what it says. We did not hide anything from Secretary of State Baker. When Baker came here he knew very well that the reality is such that 8,700 housing units are being built in the territories. Still, the Americans left here with another feeling: They realized that this government is determined not only to give a new meaning to the peace process, but also to accelerate it. They will consider all the aspects and will make their own decisions.

[Talmor] Lastly, Mr. Ben-Eli'ezer, how is Arye Bar, your ministry's director general, dealing with this freeze after conducting massive construction while working for Minister Ari'el Sharon.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] My director general is a civil servant. It is his duty to carry out the policy of his minister. Just as he carried out the policy of the previous minister, he will do the same for me. I believe that as long as he feels comfortable with my policies, he will stay. If he does not feel comfortable, I expect him to tell me so. So far, for the 10 days I have been in office, he has carried out all my orders superbly and with the utmost loyalty.

[Talmor] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben- Eli'ezer, thank you.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Thank you.

Fewer Jews in Territories Under New Master Plan

TA2307183892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jul 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] The first imprint of the government policy, which proposes to reduce the growth of the West Bank and Gaza Strip settlements, can be found in the composite National Master Plan [NMP] for construction, development, and the absorption of immigrants (NMP 31) due to be submitted early next month for the approval of the National Planning and Construction Council, and later, for cabinet approval.

An earlier population distribution master plan, approved during the former government's office, envisaged a total of 250,000 Jewish inhabitants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by mid-1995. The new NMP sets a limit on the Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, envisaging no more than 140,000 Jewish inhabitants by mid- 1990's—110,000 less than previous NMPs, which were approved by Likud governments.

The plans are based on the assessment that the Israeli population will reach 6,131,000 in 1995. The assessment is based on a forecasted 1 million immigrants (about 200,000 a year) and 430,000 in natural growth by the end of the plan. According to the new NMP data for the end of 1989, the Jewish population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip stood at 73,000, or 1.6 percent of the country's total population. By the end of 1990, the Jewish population in these locations stood at 81,600—1.7 percent of the State of Israel's total population.

According to the plan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip's Jewish population will stand at 140,000—2.3 percent of the country's total population—by the end of 1995. This growth of the territories' population will require the construction of some 10,000 housing units over five years.

The Construction and Housing Ministry plan approved by the previous government included the construction of about 16,500 housing units in the West bank and Gaza Strip in 1990 to 1992; about 9,000 of these are currently in very advanced stages of construction. Under the new plan, this additional construction should suffice through the end of 1995.

Under the plan, the Jewish population of the Golan Heights will stand at 19,000 at the end of 1995, versus 18,000 non-Jews; it stood at 10,600 (versus 15,300 non-Jews) at the end of 1990.

The new NMP assigns the largest population increase to the central area and Tel Aviv District. In the five years between 1990 and 1995, the population of these two regions will grow by about 400,000 and reach 2.5 million (versus 2.1 million at the end of 1990.) Nevertheless, the ratio of the central area and Tel Aviv District's population out of the state's total population will drop from 44 percent at present to 41 percent at the end of 1995. The proportionately largest growth will occur in the south, where the population will constitute 14.7 percent of the total population nationwide by the end of the plan, compared with 11.9 percent today: It will rise from 573,600 in 1990 to 901,000 in 1995.

Jerusalem's percentage of the country's total population will also drop from 12 percent at present to 11.8 percent in 1995, or 723,000 versus 578,200 in 1990. According to updated data received by the NMP steering committee before the end of June 1992, a total of 423,068 immigrants have arrived since 1989—fewer than the early forecasts which spoke of 200,000 immigrants every year.

The updated forecasts envisage no more than 60,000 new immigrants a year. The plan's structure allows modifications in the event of a substantial population growth. In combining development, construction, and the absorption of immigrants, the master plan was the first NMP since the mid-1960's to attempt to integrate the planning of almost all spheres of government activity.

After the plan receives cabinet approval, it will acquire statutory validity, and all national, district, and local master plans will be subject to it. Among other spheres, this includes infrastructure development and construction, roads, housing construction, and industrial development. The new NMP reflects reservations, albeit indirect, from former Minister Ari'el Sharon's Stars Plan, which had been approved by the previous government. The plan envisaged a string of settlements along the

Green Line—mainly along Wadi 'Ara—forming a partition inside a densely populated Arab district.

The new NMP renounces the establishment of small towns without appropriate infrastructure, giving preference to either the development and expansion of existing towns or the grouping of larger towns where development and infrastructure costs would be lower and environmental damage lesser than those incurred by the scattering of numerous towns throughout unique scenic areas. [passage omitted]

Army Units Repossess State Property 25 Jul

NC2507062992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Statement by the Lebanese Army Command's guidance directorate issued on 25 July]

[Text] Continuing the process of repossessing state property occupied by others, Lebanese Army units on the night of 24 July 1992 repossessed the following property and buildings:

The buildings of the Health Ministry in al-Karantina and its suburbs; the gendarmerie barracks in Ba'labakk; the buildings of the Agriculture Ministry in al-Nasiriyah, in the al-Nabi Shit area, in al-Biqa'; the al-Baladiyah police station in al-Najmah Square in Tripoli; and the gendarmerie station in al-Na'imah.

Storm Lebanese Forces Headquarters

NC2507061892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Army units stormed the Lebanese Forces headquarters, and Dr. Samir Ja'ja' and his wife are still inside the building.

Only hours after storming the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation [LBC] building, Lebanese Army units at 0030 last night cordoned off the area around the Lebanese Forces Command general headquarters in al-Karantina. They set up roadblocks and diverted the traffic in various directions starting with Nahr al- Kalb bridge in the east and the Electricity Institute in Mar Mikha'il in the south. They closed off all side roads leading to al-Karantina.

The unit, backed by armored vehicles, advanced and entered the Lebanese Forces Military Council headquarters. Dr. Samir Ja'ja' was in the headquarters with his wife. They are still there and are in good shape.

Dr. Ja'ja' has been receiving telephone calls to ask about his condition. At 0400 today, the patriarch's general deputy Bishop Roland Abu-Jawdah contacted Ja'ja' and asked him what is happening.

AFP this morning cited Lebanese Forces commander's political advisor Tawfiq al-Hindi as saying that between 0100 and 0200 today the Lebanese Army entered the Lebanese Forces headquarters in al-Karantina. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja' Issues Statement

NC2507090392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Statement by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' on 24 July in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] At a time when the Lebanese people have two concerns—they have their economic and day-to-day worries and they also have to worry about elections—the government met the day before yesterday to make a decision. The decision was not about the economic situation or the daily problems of the people and how to deal with them, even at a time when the citizens are groaning under the economic burden. Nor did this decision have anything to do with what the government will do regarding elections at a time when large sectors of the population oppose these elections. The government met two days ago and only then woke up to the issue of government property buildings. They made a decision to repossess government buildings to [words indistinct]. My first question is: Did they just wake up to this issue? Second, is this a priority issue right now?

The whole economic situation in the country is deteriorating, and no one knows when it will stop. The political situation is extremely fragmented. There is great political tension as a result of the parliamentary elections. And what is the government occupying itself with? It is occupying itself with how to repossess its buildings. How will it do so? It issued a decision to repossess the buildings of the Lebanese Forces.

If we look at the list of buildings in the country, we see that some buildings are mentioned and others are not. For example, I would like to ask whether the Palace of al-Amir Bashir in Bayt al-Din [currently used by Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party as a center for cultural activities] is government property. I would also like to ask whether the Palace of al-Amir Amin, also in Bayt al-Din, is government property. We would like to ask who fixed limiting succession of government property so that we can define what can be repossessed and what cannot. Will this operation be a political tool, a tool for political and military pressure on the opposition in Lebanon? In my opinion, presenting the issue of repossessing government property at this particular moment, though we support such a proposal, is the primary government reaction to the opposition. Rather than the government responding in a balanced way, dressing the wound, and rectifying the defect—the core of the defect, which is holding the elections—it searched for ways to apply pressure on the opposition, thus reducing the popular pressure it is confronting.

On this occasion, I still confirm that regardless of anything that happens, we can only accept democratic practices in our action. The regrettable fact is that the opposition, that persists in using democratic practices, is being confronted by a government and authority that insists on adopting nondemocratic practices. I will give examples:

The first building they stormed was the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation [LBC] building. How did they do that? The government issued its decision. The LBC issued a statement that they are starting to evacuate the building so that they would hand it over to the government within a few days. We were taken by surprise after midnight last night, after 0200 today—I do not know what prompted the authorities to behave in this way—a

large Army unit—to be fair here, I must say that the Army behaved very politely and no conflicts occurred—stormed the LBC and took over the building. I want to ask the government and officials: Is the government exerting efforts to make the people hate it or like it? What is the objective behind such behavior? I want to ask the government: Did the authorities send someone to warn the people squatting in buildings without licenses that a decision had been issued by the cabinet to execute this decision? Did the government send someone to warn people using these buildings that they have a given number of days to evacuate these buildings, and the latter did not do so? If they do not evacuate the building, the government can send the gendarmerie. And if the gendarmerie cannot do anything, they can then send the gendarmerie backed by the Army.

The fact that the authorities are using the Army in such a way for political methods benefits neither the authorities nor the Army, the homeland, and the citizens.

Army Issues Denial

NC2507090892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0818 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] The Lebanese Army Command's guidance directorate denied reports this morning by some media that the Army cordoned off certain headquarters and held people inside the buildings. The Army Command clarified that these reports are not true and that the Army repossessed government property at dawn today in numerous areas in implementing the Council of Ministers' decision. None of the people who used parts of these buildings as living quarters with their families were attacked.

Ja'ja' Recounts Events

NC2507144192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' from his headquarters in al-Qarantinah, Beirut, which is currently surrounded by Lebanese Army forces, by a Radio Free Lebanon correspondent identified only as Marcel, on 25 July—live or recorded]

[Text] [Marcel] How are you?
[Ja'ja'] I am well, thank God, and you?

[Marcel] This is Marcel.
[Ja'ja'] Hello.

[Marcel] What news do you have? We want to put you on the air for a little while. Many people are calling to ask about you.
[Ja'ja'] Please continue.

[Marcel] All right. Greetings. May God give you strength.
[Ja'ja'] I welcome you.

[Marcel] First, we want to ask about your health.
[Ja'ja'] I am fine.

[Marcel] Many people are calling the radio station to find out what has happened. Some are asking for news, some are expressing their astonishment at the incident, some are denouncing what happened. Can you tell us what has really happened?
[Ja'ja'] This is what happened: Yesterday, Shawqi Fakhuri, the public works and transport minister, came to visit me to discuss the Cabinet's decision that state-owned buildings were going to be returned to the state. I also learned that Marwan Hamadah, health and social affairs minister, was told to discuss the same issue with Walid Junblatt and other parties. We talked about this matter for about an hour and agreed to talk further next week after Minister Fakhuri learns what Minister Hamadah has done. Our meeting ended with this understanding. Four or five hours later, at 0100 today, we were surprised to see the Army returning to the Lebanese Forces Council building and assuming positions everywhere. This is what happened. What I cannot understand is how this happened when we were holding discussions about how to resolve this issue with a Cabinet member. I cannot understand why this has happened.

[Marcel] Are contacts underway with Ministry of Labor officials to... [sentence as heard]? It is being said that you are under house arrest.
[Ja'ja'] Contacts are being held to see how this issue will be resolved, but I want to stress that no one has objected to the Cabinet's decision to retrieve state-owned buildings. We accept the decision in principle. Let the state take any building it wants, but why should it do it in this heavy-handed manner? Why does it behave in such an unacceptable fashion when everyone accepts the principle of the Cabinet's decision? At least we support the decision. Take what happened at the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation [LBC]. We accepted the decision, were going to implement the decision, and had begun to implement it [words indistinct]. I do not know why this is happening.

[Marcel] Do you believe this is being done in response to your opposition to the elections?
[Ja'ja'] I do. I believe this measure is a form of political pressure. It is not a question of retrieving state-owned buildings. That could be resolved in another manner, not this way. We are telling them: Okay, tell us which building you want us to evacuate, and we will do it. This is not the issue, as some radio stations are reporting. This is a question of repressing opposition.

[Marcel] Are you going to move the Lebanese Forces Council?
[Ja'ja'] We will wait and see.

[Marcel] Are they asking you to evacuate the building, you and...
[Ja'ja', interrupting] Contacts are underway with state officials in order to decide what we are going to do.

[Marcel] Is Samir Ja'ja' currently undermining the peace and [words indistinct]?

[Ja'ja'] What Samir Ja'ja' is trying to do is show the way to a sound peace. What they are doing is not the way to get a sound peace. This is what we are trying to do: We are trying to point out differences and rebuild the homeland on stable foundations, not on treacherous quicksand. The officials are [words indistinct]. They must tell what they know.

[Marcel] Do you (?expect) further measures to be taken against the opposition?
[Ja'ja'] Anything is now possible.

[Marcel] What would like to tell the people who are calling Radio Free Lebanon?
[Ja'ja'] First, I would like to thank all those called, who made efforts, denounced, and assembled near the Lebanese Forces Council building, the outskirts of Bkriki, Radio Free Lebanon, or the LBC. I want to tell them we are standing our ground. Our march will continue; in the end, right will triumph. The cause will be victorious.

[Marcel] Thank you.
[Ja'ja'] You are welcome.

Ja'ja' Evacuates Headquarters

NC2507202892 Paris AFP in English 2009 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Beirut, July 25 (AFP) - The head of the disbanded Christian Lebanese Forces [LF] militia, Samir Ja'ja', on Saturday evacuated his former headquarters near here following a 20-hour standoff with the army, LF sources said.

Army troops backed by tanks entered the al-Qarantinah compound on the northern outskirts north of here in a pre-dawn operation with government orders to recover a building seized illegally by the LF during the 16-year civil war.

The move prompted an outcry from the head of Lebanon's powerful Christian Maronite Church, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr, who accused the government of bias, and prompted thousands of demonstrators to rally in support of Ja'ja'.

LF sources said Ja'ja', his wife, family members and 30 aides left the compound for an unspecified destination.

The standoff came one day after the Syrian-backed government set a date for general elections despite staunch opposition from the Christian community, which is opposed to polls taking place amid Syrian army presence in Lebanon.

The three-stage election—the first in 20 years—will start August 23 and be held for three consecutive Sundays.

Says Opposition to Election To Continue

NC2607055492 Paris AFP in English 2315 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Report by Michel Castex]

[Text] Beirut, July 26 (AFP)—Lebanese Christian militia chief Samir Ja'ja' on Saturday fled his former headquarters near here following a 20-hour siege by the army, vowing continued opposition to elections scheduled by the pro-Syrian government.

After returning to his residence at Ghidras in the mountains north of Beirut, Ja'ja' told AFP by telephone that Lebanon's Christian opposition would continue to oppose scheduled general elections that he said would endanger the process of reconciliation.

Army troops backed by tanks entered the al-Karantina compound on the northern outskirts of Beirut in a pre-dawn operation with government orders to recover a building seized illegally by the Lebanese Forces (LF) during the 16-year civil war.

The move prompted an outcry from the head of Lebanon's powerful Christian Maronite Church, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr, who accused the government of bias, and prompted thousands of demonstrators to rally in support of Ja'ja'.

Ja'ja' said that basically he had nothing against the government's retaking of the al-Karantina compound: what he objected to was the way that it was carried out—he was asleep, he said, when 500 troops backed by 30 tanks entered his headquarters.

"It was blatant intimidation," he said. "They did it that way to force me to change my attitude towards the elections, but I will not. It was all for nothing. The attempt did not succeed."

The chief of the disbanded Christian militia called the evacuation, first of the LF television station, then al-Karantina, "undemocratic."

"I want to say to the government that only democratic measures can bring about what we want to build in Lebanon," said Ja'ja'. "The undemocratic practices employed will only distance us further from national reconciliation and from consensus between the government and the people."

Following the 20-hour standoff, troops escorted Ja'ja', his wife, family members and 30 aides out of the compound.

The drama came one day after the Syrian-backed government set a date for general elections despite staunch opposition from the Christian community, which is opposed to polls taking place amid Syrian army presence in Lebanon.

The three-stage election—the first in 20 years—will start August 23 and be held for three consecutive Sundays.

Ja'ja' stressed that the Christians would continue their opposition to the legislative elections they contend were called by the Lebanese government under pressure from Damascus.

"We remain increasingly adamant in our position against the elections, because without a normal political process, reconciliation and reconstruction of Lebanon will never come about," he said.

He pointed to a widespread Christian work stoppage last Thursday as an indication of a "great cohesion" among the opposition, which he said was "leaning increasingly towards a boycott of the voting" if the government did not reverse its position.

Magazine's Offices Surrounded

NC2507114792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Statement by the staff of AL-MASIRAH magazine, 25 July]

[Text] AL-MASIRAH editors and employees were surprised this morning by military personnel surrounding the magazine's offices and preventing them from entering.

AL-MASIRAH's staff is astonished and denounces these actions, which pose a serious threat to the press and freedom and have no legal justification as long as all legal conditions are met.

AL-MASIRAH's staff expresses concern about the authorities' latest measure, which is incompatible with the Constitution and the free democratic system. It also appeals to the press and journalists unions and all officials to intervene quickly to put an end to this blatant encroachment on the press and media that, should it continue, will threaten the country's freedom and survival.

Information Department Issues Statement

NC2607172192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Statement by the National Defense Ministry's Information Department issued on 26 July]

[Text] The phases implemented by the Army Command are in line with the Cabinet's 23 July decision authorizing the Lebanese Army to repossess state buildings, establishments, and property. The decision was conveyed to the Army Command on 23 July by Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and national defense minister, who asked it to take the necessary measures to implement it. In turn, the Army Command drew up a seven-day plan, which began on 24 July, to repossess all state buildings and property. The plan excluded buildings inhabited by refugees, pending their return to their villages and homes.

The Information Department would like to emphasize that the Army Command's plan consists of four phases, three of which have already been implemented. Under the fourth and last phase, which will be implemented within the next few hours, the Army will repossess the Shyakh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk from Hizballah.

The three phases implemented so far are as follows: The first stage involved repossessing the Regie building in al-Shuf; the State School in the Abu Samra quarter in Tripoli; part of the Post Office building in B'ir Hasan; the Ministry of Water and Electricity Resources building in the southern suburb; the Ministry of Public Works building in al-Musharrafiyah quarter; and the Teachers Institute building in Juniyah, which the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation [LBC] used.

The second phase involved repossessing a Ministry of Public Health building in al-Karantina, used as the Lebanese Forces headquarters; a building in Tripoli; a Ministry of Agriculture building in al-Nasiriyah in al-Biqa', used by the Amal Movement as a military barracks; an Internal Security Forces building in Ba'labakk, used by Hizballah; and a building in al-Na'imah in al- Shuf.

The third phase involved repossessing the Bayt al-Din Palace and Casino Du Liban.

The Information Department affirms that the Army Command repossessed all these buildings in accordance with the Cabinet decision. The Army Command was hopeful that the repossessions would occur without any problems with the parties occupying the buildings. There is no truth to reports that Army personnel detained or placed anyone under house arrest.

The Army units carried out the instructions issued to them and treated those occupying the buildings with respect and amity. Their main and only concern was to return official property to the government. This is true so much so that the Army units, in accordance with the defense minister's instructions to the Army Command, complied with a request by Lebanese Forces leader Dr. Samir Ja'ja' and his wife that they be transported to Ghidras under Army escort. The Army personnel did not enter or approach the area Dr. Ja'ja' and his wife were staying. Army personnel treated them with total courtesy and respect, just as they dealt with other parties occupying official buildings, including the LBC, which was given time to transfer its equipment. It is not true that the defense minister told the LBC it would have time to move its equipment only if it agreed to a certain degree of censorship. Like the state, he favors media freedom.

Finally, the Information Department would like to say that the Army units did not issue an ultimatum to Dr. Ja'ja' to leave the building he was using as his headquarters. Ja'ja' asked to be moved of his own volition, and the Army units complied with his request.

Hizballah Ready To Hand Over Barracks

NC2707105692 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Within the next few hours, the Lebanese Army will finalize the fourth stage of repossessing government buildings and institutions. The plan is for the Army to repossess the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk from Hizballah.

A government source stated that Hizballah informed Army Intelligence chief Michel Rahbani yesterday of its readiness to hand over the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks as soon as they finish removing all the equipment and private property they have in it, which they started to do yesterday.

Sa'adah Expresses Opposition to Elections Date

NC2407163292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Post and Telecommunications Minister Dr. George Sa'adah stated that his absence from today's Cabinet meeting was to express his opposition to setting the date for the parliamentary elections before ensuring accord about the matter through extensive consultations with all parties, be they supporters or opponents. He stated: I repeat my opposition to holding the parliamentary elections, and I warn of the danger of challenging the people's attitude. There may be repercussions if this challenge continues. He called on the government to hold intensive contacts with all parties to assure them that the elections will be free, fair, and honest and that all parties can participate.

Hizballah Participation in Election Assessed

NC2407124892 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 13 Jul 92 p 23

[Report by Ahmad al-Musawi]

[Text] The lists being prepared by Hizballah for the election battle will be a surprise, because they will include very flexible alliances and ideas that will go beyond those of other parties. The party is even thinking of nominating a woman for one seat.

The calm preparations for its election campaign would appear to show that Hizballah wants to enter the arena of "dialogue, democracy, and equality" forcefully in the post-election peace stage in the same way it forcefully entered the "military arena" during the war.

Hizballah opted to take part in the election based on its conviction and great confidence that the "popular determination" will be able to express itself freely. But, like its expected major "ally" in the election, the Amal Movement, Hizballah fears some other papers being placed in the secret ballot boxes, especially with these two Shiite forces emerging during the war without experiencing elections, their surprises, and tricks.

The fear aroused by this unique experience, its expectations, and its surprise led Hizballah to give itself enough time to hold difficult and bitter internal debates to establish the positive and negative aspects of participating in the election and to study "the entire Lebanese election situation" and its possible outcome before deciding to opt for "Yes" to participation, which Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah favored, rather than the "No" advocated by those who were not sure the elections would be held in a way that could ensure the party getting the number of deputies it deserves.

In these difficult and bitter debates, the argument put forward for saying "No" was based on the following premises:

1. The nature of political participation in the sectarian system that the party rejects, because it finds it difficult to harmonize with it.

2. Hizballah's own nature, which is still not quite ready to go through the election experiment and the requirements of parliamentary life.

3. Exercising opposition to the sectarian regime is alive and available and more useful from outside the Chamber of Deputies.

4. There is a fear that the party will be blamed for the Chamber's approval of any decisions or actions that are not in line with Hizballah policies and ideas.

Those advocating "Yes" based their view on the following:

1. Exercising opposition to incorrect policies from inside the Chamber is the same as exercising it from outside and this will not affect the party's policies and ideas. If opposition from inside the Chamber is useless, then, by the same token, it will not be harmful.

2. A party aim and principal slogan is eliminating political sectarianism. Al-Ta'if Accord stipulated this in its clause on political reforms. The party must be present inside the Chamber to help speed up its elimination, particularly with Paragraph "K" of the clause on reforms in al-Ta'if Accord stating that "the Chamber of Deputies elected on the basis of equality between Muslims and Christians must take the appropriate measures to achieve this objective."

3. Participation in the decisions bears on the fate of the resistance, strengthening its steadfastness and continuity.

4. If the party does not take part, then for whom should the arena be left? What use is there in such a stand?

In these debates between "Yes" and "No," Hizballah created ready answers for any eventuality that might result from the parliamentary elections and for any surprises or results. The party believes that elections have become a necessity, regardless of the election law, which falls far short of ensuring true and honest representation of the citizens, because it has become necessary for the Lebanese to elect their representatives after the war delayed parliamentary elections for 20 years.

Hizballah also believes that its political base is large enough to get it many seats in the Chamber. But if these hopes turn out to be exaggerated and the popular vote will give us "less than we hope—even a single deputy—we will accept this judgment and be satisfied with the results. We have no problem with this. We will continue

to spread our ideas and assert our presence." Conversely, should something happen during the election to block "our chances illegally, as happened in Algeria for example, we would respond to that." [quotations unattributed as published]

Hizballah's electoral alliances have not taken their final shape. It has not even decided the names of its own candidates, but it has a general policy that says: "Alliance with us is open in principle to everyone except those who have committed 'cardinal sins,' who have cooperated with Israel, on condition that they should show commitment to our platform." Its main elements are three:

Commitment to support the resistance and anything this entails.

Commitment to reform the system by calling for promptly eliminating political sectarianism.

Solving the economic problem based on commitment to the cause of the poor.

On the details of these alliances toward which Hizballah is moving, these points "leave much room for alliance with numerous forces, parties, and individuals enjoying credibility, a presence, and influence. These points are slogans adopted by some of these forces and individuals considering them part of their political program, thus expanding the scope of alliance to include elements outside the Islamic circle and even outside "the Islamic and national arena."

Despite Hizballah not thinking out the possible alliances to the last detail, it has narrowed the qualifications or conditions of alliance, leaving the following picture to appear:

On the rest of the Islamists, Hizballah would adopt and support their candidates in various areas.

On the Amal Movement, Hizballah believes it should naturally be allied with it. The era of differences over details and mutual suspicions is over. Experience has shown that the common denominators are many, resulting from the two sides' mutual recognition, showing that the one complements the other. Naturally, this congruity should be manifested in a joint election arena without monopolizing the election process, because there are other voices that have roles and positions.

As for the traditionalists, the party believes there are two types or trends in this "rank of traditionalists." The first is a trend that adapts its stand to be more in harmony with the national stands and nearer to the central issues. It is possible to work with this trend. The other is fossilized and can be said to "belong to the political Maronite eras." There can be no converging with this trend, not in the elections, or on any other issue.

Within this framework the party might be so flexible as not to refuse to meet [former Chamber of Deputies Speaker] Kamil al- As'ad, assuming he agrees with the party's conditions and programs.

The party has not established any in-depth dialogue with the Christians, but this does not prevent a rapport with some Christian figures who agree with the party's view of Israel and the issue of domestic accord, particularly those who do not feel they belong to "the elite." There is no problem forming an alliance and coordinating with these.

As for the party's overall assessment of the election battle in general—which the party insists will take place because "it is no joke"—the party does not expect the battle in any area, excluding Kasrawan, to be one of breaking bones. The lists that will enter the elections will be strong enough and well prepared to defuse any problem that this or that name might cause.

Resistance Fighters Attack Israeli Patrol 25 Jul

NC2507115992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance announced that a group of resistance fighters attacked an Israeli patrol in Kafr Hunah in the Jazzin area. Three members of the patrol were killed, and three others were injured. The armored personnel carrier that was transporting them was destroyed, according to the Islamic Resistance statement. The statement added that the resistance fighters also attacked a South Lebanese Army position in Kafr Hunah where injuries and damage were reported.

Amal Movement Clashes With Israeli Patrol

NC2607053692 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The Amal Movement announced last night that one of its units detonated an explosive device when a mechanized patrol of Israeli occupation forces and Lahd militias was traveling along the Dayr Siryan road.

The statement added that a clash then ensued between the enemy patrol and Amal fighters. A number of the enemy personnel were killed or wounded and then the Israeli forces' artillery and helicopters shelled and raked the site of the operation, the nearby roads and valleys, and the outskirts of al-Tayyibah, Wadi al-Saluqi, the al-Litani river, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawter al-Gharbiyah. The statement said that one resistance fighter was martyred.

Israeli Forces Shell Hills Around Kafr Rumman

NC2707073892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces fired many mortar shells at the eastern hills of Kafr Rumman at 0645 today. A pilotless reconnaissance aircraft also flew over the area. The Israeli shelling of the area resumed at about 0730. Incendiary and mortar shells fell near the quarry in

Kafr Rumman, which was accompanied by machine-gun fire directed at the hills around Kafr Rumman. No casualties were reported.

Buwayz Returns From Damascus Meeting 26 Jul

NC2607065892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned to Beirut at dawn today after holding a separate meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Buwayz said the Damascus meeting demonstrated the high standard of Arab coordination, adding that Israel's commitment to implement UN Resolution 425 would give great momentum to Middle East peace.

Buwayz conveyed a message from President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad asked him to convey a reply message. The conversation between them dealt with issues of common interest, according to Damascus radio.

Commentary on Baker's 'Domestic Election' Visit

NC2407112492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Station commentary: "Where Is Seriousness?"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Whoever observes the regional arena, including Lebanon, can barely distinguish reality from illusion, the essential from the incidental, or the serious from the comical. Events are more a tragicomedy that you watch for a laugh; instead, you get depressed and cry.

Baker is in Damascus—the last [Arab] line of defense—investigating possibilities, and the firm historic resistance that has been turned into a monument, a testimony to people and fortresses, the avid builders of which have long gone. Left behind are monuments telling tales of the land's identity and true owners.

Despite the sadness and the farewell to his mother, President al-Asad, as usual, filled the bill. We have no doubts that his conscience is clear and that he is determined to be loyal to the motherland, while undervaluing everything about the greatness of death and the sanctity of loyalty to the motherland.

Observers agree that Baker's new and speedy visit to the region is no more than a domestic election visit in terms of its timing and results. The direct objective of this visit is American and its long-term goals cannot be separated from the strategic course, where arrogant Zionist and U.S. interests intersect and run parallel with each other.

For this essential reason, Rabin traveled to Egypt on the same day it commemorated the 23 July revolution, when it was liberated from monarchy and freed the Suez Canal; repelled the tripartite aggression [that of the British, French, and Israelis on Egypt in 1956]; and launched in its Arab world a sweeping current of liberation that shook stagnating countries and threatened thrones and blind allegiances.

What more can we say, especially since we cannot review every Arab and Islamic event, from Sudan to Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, the Hejaz, and Turkey? Rabin visits Egypt; he is met at al-Qubbah Palace and salutes al-Sadat. The Egyptian people are forced to welcome him hospitably on the anniversary of the revolution that launched the freedom of the Egyptian people and expressed their desire to confront Rabin, the usurper of Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and the rest of Palestine.

Baker waited one day to offer his condolences to President al-Asad and pleaded with him for a reception to be used in his domestic election battle. Al-Asad bidding his mother farewell, Baker will not find the motherland or the rest of the cultural identity being forfeited. We cannot detail all the facts, so we will return to Lebanon to read this tragicomedy.

In Lebanon there is interest in and division over the election. In Lebanon there is a rise in the dollar rate and threats of strikes and disturbance. In Lebanon there is fear over the future and a popular attempt to become liberated. In Lebanon there are the mirrors of the region and the example of the regional tragicomedy. Lines intersect, maps are drawn, and conspiracies are woven. As long as the government has no credibility, how can people have confidence in the security measures, army deployment, and the promises of those who hold the purse strings? Why does the army start its hard labor of clearing the roads of Bhamdun, yet not do the same thing in al-Nab'ah and Ra's al-Dukwanah? With security established and the peace train moving down the track, why is the national currency devaluing? Why are hunger and poverty increasing among the people? Why does the Zionist occupation cling to the security strip and haggling increase at the expense of the resistance that is harming the occupation and proving daily that it will reject and confront this occupation until victory and liberation?

If the rulers are serious about rejecting the occupation, why do they not adopt the resistance as a policy, media machine, weapon, and means of development? If they are lying, why doesn't the resistance topple them, backed by the land, the people, and history?

There is great confusion and injustice, which some hope will spread among everyone. The Lebanese arena is nothing but an example expressing all that is happening in the Arab and Islamic region. Will the regimes diffuse this injustice with the help of engineers from abroad? Or will some of the blood of martyrs be enough to line the people's path to their freedom, decision, and identity?

Imam Khomeyni, may God sanctify his soul, said that this is the age of the masses. Will the masses realize the visions of their conscience and those of their inspired leader? Most of what is happening now, with all its signs

and appearances, is nothing more than a comical pastime and the killing of time. Where is seriousness, where is reality, where is the essence? We found an answer only with al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, may his soul be sanctified. Is the nation ready to comprehend? Is there a chance of eliminating doubt and confusion? We truly hope so and ask God to speed deliverance?

Baker Visit 'Classic' U.S. 'Penetration'

NC2607072392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Lebanon was a classic example of U.S. penetration and was undoubtedly aimed at securing an Arab contribution to the U.S. elections.

Political observers interpreted Baker's tour as the turning point for Lebanon, particularly as Baker touched on some sensitive political and domestic issues, such as the parliamentary elections and the al-Ta'if accord. But the climate of the Lebanese situation in particular and the Arab one in general does not give the impression that any major step will be achieved with regard to either a settlement or the U.S. presence in Lebanon.

It is noted that none of Baker's proposals for a settlement in the region produced anything new other than increased U.S. pressure on the Arabs to complete the process of making humiliating concessions. Baker's proposals are not that much different from the Israeli ones that aim to splinter the Arab arena in preparation for concluding separate deals between the Zionists and each Arab country or negotiating team.

It is also noted that the U.S. Administration cannot present practical proposals for a settlement that could be implemented before the U.S. elections. These proposals remain general with some details from which the United States and Israel hope to deepen the Arab splits and create more disagreements in the already fragmented Arab ranks.

Thus, Baker's visit to the region in general and to Lebanon in particular could increase the fragmentation of official Arab stands. In Lebanon, this visit could be translated into an escalation of the Zionist aggression against the south and western al-Biqa', especially as Baker insinuated that there are differences of views with the Syrian leadership over the concept of implementing the al-Ta'if accord and the issue of resistance in Lebanon. This could enable the Zionists to escalate their aggression against Lebanon.

No major developments in the settlement process in the region and no major political or domestic developments in Lebanon are expected, because the presidential elections are the Americans' current priority. Hence, what is required, now that the Lebanese have realized the value of the resistance and its important role, is an intensification of support for this honorable resistance until the territories are completely liberated. The most important answer to Baker's humiliating proposals lies in escalating the resistance operations.

Al-Asad Meets Egyptian, Lebanese Foreign Ministers

JN2607053592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in al-Qardahah at 2000 yesterday.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Egypt's Ambassador in Damascus Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi attended the meeting.

The Egyptian foreign minister delivered a message to the president from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. President al-Asad gave him a reply message.

At 2030 yesterday, President al-Asad also met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Suhayl Shammas, director general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, were also present at the meeting.

Buwayz conveyed to President al-Asad a message from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and the president gave him a reply message.

Discussions focused on issues of mutual interest.

Al-Asad Meets Arab Ministers in Damascus

JN2607053992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpts] At 1800 yesterday in al-Qardahah, President Hafiz al-Asad met with the foreign ministers of the Arab states, who concluded their coordination meetings in Damascus, involved in the peace process [passage omitted]

During the meeting, the Arab delegations praised President al-Asad's principled positions and his constant concern for pan-Arab interests. They also lauded Syria's constant defense of Arab rights and interests.

President al-Asad said: Syria has adhered, and will always adhere, to Arab rights. His excellency added: Difficult circumstances do not prevent the victory of the Arabs' will and their just cause. He explained that Arab coordination under the current circumstances is the way to success. His excellency hailed the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territories, stressing the need for Arab support for this heroic steadfastness.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Cited on Damascus Talks

JN2607120092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir left Damascus this morning after participating in the coordination meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with the peace process, which concluded in Damascus yesterday.

He was seen off by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

In a predeparture statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir described the meeting of the Arab ministers who participated in the Damascus meetings, with President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday, as excellent. As is his custom, his excellency spoke very clearly and frankly about a great many issues that concern the Arab nation, its history, heritage, its current situation and future aspirations.

The minister said that the results of the Damascus meetings were very good and their general atmosphere excellent and that views were exchanged very frankly and fraternally as necessitated by the current stage.

Concluding his statement, Dr. Abu-Jabir noted that the final statement included very serious topics and covered all issues that the Arabs are facing in the region, particularly the Arab parties concerned with peace talks.

King Husayn Arrives 24 Jul, Meets With al-Asad

JN2407114792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived at al-Humaymim airport today from Amman, accompanied by Royal Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki.

Leading those who met his majesty at the airport were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah; Health Minister Muhammad Iyad al- Shatti; Supply Minister Nadim 'Akkash; Tourism Minister Muhammad Amin Abu-al-Shamat; Agriculture Minister As'ad Mustafa; and al-Lathiqiyah Governor Hasan Rida Shahwan were also at the airport to meet him.

The king's motorcade left the airport for al-Qirdahah city where he was met by President Hafiz al-Asad. Khaddam; al-Zu'bi; the interior, health, tourism, and agriculture ministers; and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, his majesty offered heartfelt condolences to the president on the death of his mother. The president thanked him for his sympathy.

Another meeting was held between the two leaders attended by Khaddam. A closed meeting was then held between His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad.

Saudi-Syrian Committee Opens Session in Damascus

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives

JN2607104392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Damascus this

morning, accompanied by Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, the Saudi finance and national economy minister, to participate in the third session of the higher Saudi-Syrian joint committee, which will begin its meetings in Damascus today.

They were met at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economic and foreign trade; Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al- Mahayini; 'Umar al-Sayyid, Syria's ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and Shaykh Ahmad al-Quhaymi, the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: I am happy to be in this sisterly country and to meet with our colleagues, the members of the higher Saudi-Syrian joint committee. We are coming to hold the third session of this committee, which represents the desire of the two sisterly countries' leaderships to advance their bilateral cooperative march in various fields. This march, which has been blessed by President Hafiz al-Asad and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has realized good achievements in the fields of bilateral economic and political cooperation. This session, he added, will be one of achievements.

His Highness Prince al-Faysal stated: Several agreements were concluded between the two countries in the trade, social, youth, and cultural fields, and we hope to succeed in laying down the executive principles for these agreements that will constitute a new pillar in bilateral cooperation.

Al-Shar' Chairs Syrian Side

JN2607161892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus—The joint committee for cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held its third session in Damascus today. The Syrian side to the committee meetings was headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Saudi side was headed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Dr. Muhammad al- 'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Fiance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini; a number of officials from several ministries; and a number of representatives of economic sectors and businessmen. They were attended on the Saudi side by Muhammad Aba- al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; a number of officials from Saudi ministries; and a number of businessmen.

Saudi Foreign Minister Issues Statement

LD2607193592 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Statement to journalists by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on Saudi-Syrian talks in Damascus 26 Jul]

[Text] (?We are happy) to come to this fraternal country and meet brother colleagues—members of the joint Saudi-Syrian Committee. We have come here in order to convene the third session of the work of this committee that expresses the will of the leadership in the two fraternal countries to push forward the process of cooperation between them in all fields.

This process has been blessed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the custodian of the two holy mosques, and it has already started to realize good achievements, in our view, in the fields of economic and political cooperation between the two countries.

God willing, this session will be a session of achievement. Several agreements have been signed by the two countries in the commercial, social, cultural, and youth spheres. We hope that we will be successful in laying down the implementation foundations of this session.

Generally, we hope that this will be a beginning and a new foundation in cooperation between the two countries. We have come with a will and with genuine resolve to push forward the process of cooperation between our two countries, God willing.

Afghanistan

Draft Suggests Council To Pick President

BK2707095992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 27 (AFP)—A draft interim constitution for Afghanistan proposes that a Shoora, (? a representative) council, elect the country's next president, sources said Monday.

Drawn up by a commission, the draft prescribes a two-year term for Afghanistan's head of state, who would take office after interim president Borhanoddin Rabbani's term expires in October.

It says all laws in Afghanistan must conform to Islamic tenets, and recognizes women's rights as ordained by the Moslem faith. It also upholds freedom of movement, association and expression, subject to Islamic principles.

Rabbani became interim president for four months on June 28, after Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, a leader of the mojahedin which took over Kabul in April and ousted its Soviet-installed regime, completed a two-month tenure.

Sources said that the draft interim constitution was being scrutinized by a panel of experts, prior to discussion by Afghanistan's governing Leadership Council.

A "Shoora Hal-o-Aaqd," literally a gathering of elders competent enough to resolve problems and take decisions, has been recommended to elect a new president, the sources said.

Its composition is currently being discussed by the experts to ensure that it will represent a mandate from the Afghan people, the sources said.

The next president, according to the draft constitution, is to be chosen by at least two-thirds of the Shoora's members.

A leadership council, patterned on the one that now exists, would remain Afghanistan's supreme policy-making body, the draft proposes.

The president and prime minister would be responsible for executing decisions taken by the Leadership Council, which would comprise leaders of all major mojahedin factions.

Sources said the hardline Hezb-e-Eslami mojahedin faction, led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, was insisting that an interim constitution provide for popular elections, leading to a future governing structure.

In the view of the Pashtoon-dominated faction, this would be the only way to ensure a stable administration representing the will of the people.

The other major Afghan faction, Jamiat-e-Eslami, led by Rabbani and the powerful Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, both Tajiks, is believed to favor a Shoora Hal-o-Aaqd.

"The issue is expected to generate fireworks when it is up for discussion by the leaders," one source said.

The draft interim constitution prescribes Pashto and Persian as official languages for multilingual Afghanistan.

Unspecified "special" privileges are also sought for mojahedin who participated in the struggle to establish an Islamic state in Afghanistan.

Cabinet Shuffle To Balance Factional Power

BK2407144692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Test] Kabul, July 24 (AFP)—Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and three others are to retain their positions in a new cabinet expected to be formed next week, officials said Friday.

"The ministers of defence, interior, higher education and foreign affairs will remain unchanged," Ammanollah, an aide to interim president Borhanoddin Rabbani, told AFP.

Mas'ud, who belongs to Jamiat-e Eslami party led by Rabbani, was instrumental in bringing about the fall of the communist regime and the subsequent mojahedin takeover at the end of April.

He was appointed defence minister on a permanent basis, unlike others who were only appointed acting ministers when former interim president Sebgatollah Mojaddedi formed the first cabinet in May.

Prime Minister Abdol Sabur Farid has been pressing for a reshuffle as the present cabinet was selected by Mojaddedi, who relinquished his post June 28. Farid has said that he has the right to select his own team of ministers.

The other mojahedin leaders to retain their jobs are: Interior Minister Ahmed Shah of the Ittihad-e Eslami, Foreign Minister Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, and Higher Education Minister Mawlawi Abdol Qayum of a the Hezb-e Eslami group led by Yunes Khales.

The governing Leadership Council, headed by Rabbani, Thursday invited all nine mojahedin factions to propose six to nine names for the new cabinet, which will be the second since the mojahedin assumed power.

The leadership council will choose new ministers in consultation with Farid, Hezb sources said.

Grounds for Islamic State Established

LD2507113892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] The head of the Foreign Representative Council of the Afghan Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami, Mr. Fayyaz, in a ceremony held in Qom for honoring the martyrs of recent clashes in Kabul, said: [announcer-read] Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami does not seek war and believes discussion to be the only way for resolving disputes. He pointed out: The agreement between the Afghan Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami and Mojaddedi's government has created the necessary ground for the establishment of an Islamic government, stability and security in the country.

The clashes between Sayyaf's Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami and the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami last week in Kabul left hundreds of dead and wounded. The two parties recently agreed to a cease-fire.

Hekmatyar Criticizes Ministry of Defense

LD2607112592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Afghanistan's Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami], criticized [Defense Minister] Ahmad Shah Mas'ud yesterday. He said that the Defense Ministry is incapable of establishing order in Kabul. Speaking during an interview, he added: The Defense Ministry must put its efforts into forming a new Islamic army.

Former Diplomat in Najibollah Regime Slain

BK2607100092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 26 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen Sunday shot dead senior Afghan diplomat Abdol Ahad Wolessy, who had served during the ousted regime of president Najibollah, witnesses and officials said.

Wolessy, 50, was ambushed near the main gate of the foreign ministry, where he was working as a director in the political department, dealing with southeast Asian affairs.

He had served as ambassador to Bangladesh under former president Babrak Karmal, and later as ambassador to the former East Germany under Najibollah.

The motive behind the assasination was not known, but some revenge killings have occurred since the mojahedin brought down the Najibollah regime and came to power in April.

Those killed included Abdol Karim Shadan, chief of the country's supreme court under the communist regime. Many members of the previous regime are believed to have fled the country for fear of reprisals.

Wolessy, who is survived by a widow, two sons and three daughters, was attacked with automatic weapons from a passing Volga car, witnesses said. A tall and healthy man, the official was on a footpath, walking to the ministry's entrance to start his day's work, when he was gunned down.

"The attackers fired on him with Kalashnikovs. He was hit by more than six bullets," a guard outside the ministry said.

"A government armored personnel carrier arrived on the scene and carried away his body," added a shopkeeper, who said Wolessy "was always dressed in a western suit with a necktie. He used to pass by my shop daily, bought cigarettes and wished me well."

Sources said Wolessy taught history in secondary schools in Kandhar and Ghazni Provinces during the 1970s, and belonged to the Khalqi faction of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan, which was renamed as the Watan (Homeland) Party by Najibollah. He later rose to become a member of the party's Central Committee.

President Rabbani Receives Iranian Delegation

LD2607172892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, today received at Golkhana Palace a high-ranking delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran led by esteemed Alaedin Borujerdi, deputy minister of foreign affairs of that country. During the meeting, attended by Mohammad Hasan Mohyeddin-Najafi, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul, esteemed Alaedin Borujerdi, offered congratulations on the election of esteeemed Borhanoddin Rabbani as the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and wished him success.

Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani expressed gratitude for the assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the sacred jihad of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and emphasized the expansion of relations and cooperation between the two Muslim countries. The delegations exchanged views on regional issues. Esteemed Alaedin Borujerdi offerred Iran's cooperation in various economic and social fields.

Current Issues Discussed

LD2607211492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Mr. Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, who is visiting Afghanistan, met Mr. Borhanoddin Rabbani, head of the Leadership Council of the Islamic Government of Afghanistan, on Sunday afternoon. He conveyed the warm greetings of our country's president and discussed the latest regional and international developments.

According to our correspondent, during the meeting, Mr. Rabbani spoke on the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and in Islamic countries. He said: We believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran's system will continue giving its support to the just stances of the mojahedin, just as it did at the time of the Islamic jehad of Afghanistan. He added: We hope that through the cooperation of friendly countries, we will fulfill our Islamic objectives. Mr. Rabbani also emphasised the greater expansion of relations between Islamic Iran and Afghanistan.

Mr. Borujerdi pointed to the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in supporting the Islamic Government of Afghanistan and expressed the hope that calm will be fully established in Afghanistan. He condemned any plots aimed at creating instability and weakening the Islamic Government of Afghanistan. Mr. Borujerdi also pointed to our country's readiness to expand all-embracing relations with the Islamic Government of Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that the necessary grounds will be prepared as soon as possible for the return of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan to rebuild Afghanistan.

During the meeting Mr. Borujerdi extended an official invitation from our country's President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Mr. Rabbani to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranian Embassy Denies Allegations of Interference

LD2407155992 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] Islamabad, July 24, IRNA—The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran here on Thursday dismissed an allegation made by an Afghan news agency that Iran was interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

In its statement the embassy said, "Iran believes in good neighbourly bilateral relations with Afghanistan on the basis of mutual respect," and added that the allegations which appeared in some Pakistani print media are "without foundation".

Denouncing the recent clashes in Kabul, the statement hoped that peace and stability would soon return to Afghanistan enabling the people to reconstruct their war devastated country.

Last week an Afghan news agency had cabled a baseless report on Iranian interference in Afghan internal affairs claiming that two Iranians were seen visiting a position belonging to an Afghan faction.

India

President Venkataraman Gives Farewell Address

BK2407152592 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Jul 92

[President R. Venkataraman's farewell address to the nation, recorded—place and date not given]

[Text] Friends, on the eve of my retirement from the office of the president, I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to you, my fellow citizens, for the kindness, courtesy, confidence and cooperation extended to me during all these five years. I am really at a loss to find words to adequately express my heartfelt gratitude to the nation. It is a debt I can never hope to repay. It is customary for the retiring president to share his thoughts with the nation before leaving office.

I have on various occasions, particularly during the Independence Day and Republic Day broadcasts, drawn the attention of the nation to the problems faced by us and the possible remedies thereof. I am afraid I have nothing new to add on this occasion. However, some aspects of national life need reiteration even at the risk of tedious repetitions. I should briefly deal with them.

It is my firm conviction that India which has had a glorious past has also an equally glorious future. One has only to compare the conditions in India at the time of our independence with the present to realize the immense strides the country has made since then. The food deficit has been overcome. Industrial development has taken us to one among the first 15 countries in the world and our scientific and technological advances have placed us foremost among the developing countries. If in spite of all these achievements poverty stalks the country, it is because of the disconcerting growth in population which dilutes every improvement in our national income. Besides, the higher birth rate among the weaker sections of society accentuates poverty and the number below the poverty line. Unless all social welfare organizations and the media cooperate to tackle this problem and the political parties eschew the temptation to use family limitation programs for electoral advantage, the nation will face an irretrievable crisis very soon.

The spectacular progress that India has made since independence is because of the unity and integrity of the country. The wealth of the nation is owned and utilized for the betterment of the life of the people as a whole. Imagine for a moment what a chaos it would have been if like Europe each linguistic area was a separate country. The passports, visas, currency exchanges and customs barriers would have completely thwarted India's growth. It is precisely for these reasons that Europe started the process of integrating into a common market and still to achieve full integration. On the other hand, India is perhaps the biggest common market freely exchanging goods and services without barriers of any kind, sharing the wealth of the nation amongst its people. Poet Subramania Bharati sang: Ondru pattalundu vazhvu, nammil otrumai neengil anaivarkkum thazhvu [Tamil verse]—United we shall have good life, divided all of us shall fall low. It is therefore the sacred duty of every citizen to preserve the national unity if only because of its economic advantages. Let us not deny to our progeny the heritage of a united nation by short-sighted activities of disruption and disunity.

The hallmark of Indian ethos irrespective of the diverse regional, caste, creed and linguistic barriers has been tolerance of other's faith, opinion and ways of life, compassion and consideration for the less privileged sections of the society, respect for the human person and human dignity and the observance of dharma or righteous conduct in day-to-day life. Every religion has preached these noble ideals and every saint and sage has reiterated them through successive generations. Poet Iqbal sang: Mazhab nahin sikhata apas mein bair rakhna [Urdu verse]—Religion does not teach us to quarrel amongst ourselves. And yet today's moderns are indulging in hatred and violence in the name of religion and disrupting the even flow of life.

Christianity came to India in the first century A.D. and Islam during the seventh century and they had all lived in peace and harmony ever since till the British resorted to the imperial stratagem of divide and (?emperor) and brought about disharmony in the country.

The peaceful coexistence of religions has been the greatest asset of Indian civilization. One shudders to think of the violence and hatred generated among brethren of the same country in the name of God and religion. The solution to the problem lies with you—the people of this great country. If you refuse to join any disruptive activity in the name of religion, the exploiters will stand exposed.

Democracy in its true sense does not rest merely on holding elections periodically, but is a civilized way of life where everyone observes the law voluntarily and respects the rights of fellow citizens. It is a way of life where people resolve their differences by dialogue, debate and discussion, and not by resorting to violence and force. It is a way of life where self-interest yields place to common good and there is readiness to sacrifice one's rights for the sake of the betterment of the weaker and the vulnerable sections of society. Unfortunately, we have abandoned all the finer instincts of man in the pursuit of selfish gains. The heartless killings of innocents in buses, in trains, in marketplaces and in thoroughfares—innocents who are in no way connected with the issues forced by militants—is a shame on the nation. It has also thwarted the progress of society to a higher standard of life and comfort. One has only to ask oneself— has anyone benefitted by such brutal and violent activities? Gandhiji is becoming more and more relevant in these chaotic days. The nation will do well to remember his teachings.

It is a matter of deep personal satisfaction to me that Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma has been elected the next president of India. An eminent scholar, well-versed in Sanskrit, and a retired jurist not only by learning but also by his vast experience, a tried and tested veteran in the cause of national integrity and unity, and above all a dedicated worker devoted to the welfare of the weaker sections of the society, Dr. Sharma brings to bear on the high office of the president all the qualities that would go to make his tenure an unqualified success. I wish him a smooth and pleasant term as the head of state. I appeal to you friends to extend to him not only your cooperation, but your kindness and affection.

In conclusion, brothers and sisters, I wish you all peace, prosperity and happiness in all your life.

Jai Hind [Hail India]

New President's Inauguration Ceremony Noted

BK2507090192

[Editorial Report] Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi and English at 0505 GMT on 25 July begins carrying live the ceremonies in connection with the installation of India's ninth president Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

The opening shots are of the promenade along the Rajpath leading to the President's House and its courtyard bearing the Jaipur Column in the distance. The camera then shows the cavalry unit of the presidential bodyguards and armored vehicles and the saluting dais in the front courtyard of President House. The English announcer says: "India's ninth president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, will be sworn in at 1115 [0545 GMT] this morning at the historic Central Hall of Parliament. Dr. Sharma succeeds Mr. R. Venkataraman who will (?delete) office. He will be administered the oath of office by the chief justice of India, Mr. Justice M.H. Kania."

At 0518 GMT, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma arrives at the President House and is greeted by President's Secretary P. Murari and Military Secretary Rear Admiral Ram Sagar. At 0520, President Venkataraman and Sharma come out of the north courtyard entrance of the President's House and are driven to the front courtyard where President Venkataraman takes the national salute for the last time as president. President Venkataraman and Shankar Dayal Sharma then leave for the Central Hall of Parliament in a motorcade escorted by the presidential bodyguard cavalry. The camera then surveys the entire one km route from the President's House to the Central Hall of parliament, which is lined by 1,000 men drawn from all three services.

The video shifts to parliament and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil and Chief Justice Kanial are shown waiting at gate number 5 of parliament house for the presidential motorcade, which on arrival at 0531 GMT is given the national salute. Patil, Kania and others then lead President Venkataraman and Sharma to the Central Hall of parliament. Video shows a panoramic view of the packed hall, where among others present are members of the union Council of Ministers, supreme court justices, state governors, and chief ministers. The national anthem is played as soon as Venkataraman, Sharma, Patil, and Kania arrive at the dais.

Home Secretary Madhav Gorpade then reads out the Election Commission notification, first in Hindi and then

in English, appointing Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma the president under Article 354 of the Indian Constitution.

At 0542 GMT Supreme Court Chief Justice M.H. Kania administers the oath of office of president to Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma in Hindi. A 21-gun salute booms in the background moments after Sharma is sworn in as president. The new president then exchanges seats with outgoing President Venkataraman.

The new president begins his address at 0545 GMT. Sharma pays tributes to his predecessors and great national leaders like Mahatama Gandhi and martyrs and freedom fighters and says they wished to see "'India as a land of peace, harmony, prosperity and social justice—a strong united nation where there is a rule of law, drawing (?strength) from ethical and moral values and capable therefore of overcoming the challenges of terrorism, communal feelings, and caste and gender oppression, as well as those of poverty, ignorance and disease." Sharma says "during my term in office, I hope and pray that I will witness the needs and concerns of the people being (?attended) to and a much better quality of life materializes, particularly in the rural areas where for many each day is still a big [word indistinct] about livelihood, sustenance and security." Sharma then quotes at length—for about five minutes—from the thought of Jawaharlal Nehru, Poet Rabindranath Tagore, Sikh Guru Gobind Singh and other religious leaders, emphasizing secularism and India being depicted as pluralism in oneness. Sharma then speaks about the history of religious tolerance in India. Sharma concludes his 12-minute speech in English at 0557 GMT by pledging to dedicate himself to fulfill his duties and praying that "the nation advances from strength to strength, true to the genius and heritage of our people, for a better world and a better future for all."

President Sharma then reads his 12-minute address in Hindi. The audio quality of reception is poor due to echo.

The new president then is greeted by the dignitaries present and given the national salute outside parliament house. Sharma, accompanied by Venkataraman, then leaves in a motorcade escorted by the cavalry unit of the presidential guards for the President's House where on arrival at 0620 GMT the new president signs the oath register.

There is a break in the live coverage at 0638 GMT for about 15 minutes as the Hindi announcer says the president has now left for the private residence and the live coverage will resume at 0700 GMT to cover the farewell ceremony for the outgoing president, R. Venkataraman. During the break in live transmission, the station shows a documentary on the past presidents of India.

The live coverage resumes at 0700 GMT with a brief special investiture ceremony showing the president being introduced to the three service chiefs, being given a salute by a contigent of the armed forces, and being installed as the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

The video then shifts to the front courtyard of the President's House for a farewell ceremony for Venkataraman attended by President Sharma, Prime Minister Rao, and other dignitaries.

Live coverage ends at 0717 GMT with the departure of Venkataraman in a motorcade.

The 74-year old new president shows no signs of weakness or illness and he walks firmly—though slow-gaited—throughout two hours and 12 minutes of ceremonies and speaks for about 24 minutes without any pause.

Ceremony Called 'Impressive'

BK2507131092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma was sworn in as the ninth president of India at an impressive ceremony in the historic Central Hall of parliament this morning. The chief justice of India, Mr. Justice M.H. Kania, administered the oath in the presence of a distinguished gathering of ministers, governors, freedom fighters and diplomats. Mother Teresa and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi were also present. Twenty one guns boomed in salute as Dr. Sharma exchanged seats with the outgoing President, Mr. R. Venkataraman, on the dais. The Central Hall reverberated with repeated applause during the 40-minute ceremony.

In his first address as the head of state, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma said his endeavor will be to serve the nation in a manner befitting the high office. He exhorted fellow countrymen to work for building a united India based on rule of law, capable of fighting the challenges of terrorism, castism, communal feelings and poverty. The president said the ethos of secularism is a time-test approach of our cherished goals. He said every Indian should understand the country's heritage and must be guided by the concept of equal respect for all religions.

From the Central Hall, the new president drove in state to Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House]. He was conducted to the study room where he signed the oath register. Dr. Sharma went to the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan by the state coach and inspected an inter-services guard of honor.

The outgoing president was given a touching farewell by Rashtrapati Bhavan and was presented an inter-services guard of honor. Before boarding the special aircraft for Madras, Mr. Venkataraman wished the people, the country, and the government all success and prosperity. He was seen off at the airport by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. Ajit Panja, accompanied Mr. Venkataraman to Madras as the minister in waiting. Mr. Venkataraman has since arrived at Madras.

Continuing Reportage on Ayodhya Temple Crisis

Construction Stops 25 Jul

BK2607125092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] The construction work at the shilanyas [temple foundation stone] site in Ayodhya stopped at 1600 this afternoon. Simultaneously, the kar seva [voluntary service] was shifted to the nearby area where the Lakshman temple will be constructed. The AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, Ramji Tripathi, reporting from Ayodhya says the new kar seva site is beyond the disputed area of 2.77 acres of land which was acquired by the Uttar Pradesh government last October. It is part of the 40 acres of land acquired by the state government for the Ram Katha [Hindu religious] Park. As already reported, Mahant Avaidyanath, MP, said in Ayodhya yesterday that decision to discontinue kar seva was taken on the appeal and assurance by the prime minister that he will try to find a solution to the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] problem in a time-bound manner. He said three months time has been given to find an amicable solution to the problem.

The union minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, has said that the center is committed to find an amicable solution to the Ayodhya issue after talks with the parties involved. Talking to our Trivandrum correspondent, Mr. Jacob said the prime minister is expected to make a statement on the issue in parliament tomorrow.

Prime Minister Rao Makes Statement

BK2707075492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister has expressed his government's resolve to solve the Ayodhya issue in a time-bound manner. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said if necessary, all litigations pending in various courts could be consolidated and considered by one judicial authority whose decision will be binding on all parties. He said this will require fairly elaborate exercise at the government level for making submissions to the courts. He hoped that the exercise at the government level can be expedited and completed within four months.

Mr. Narasimha Rao informed the house that he has found agreement on this approach. Referring to the talks he had with the delegation of religious leaders, the prime minister said he told them that once the construction work in Ayodhya was stopped, he will revive the efforts initiated by previous governments and by him.

Appeals to Parties, Citizens

BK2707092092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the government's resolve to solve the Ayodhya issue in a time-bound manner. Making a statement in both the houses of parliament today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said if necessary all litigations pending in various courts could be consolidated and considered by a single judicial authority whose decision will be binding on all parties. He said this will require very elaborate exercise at the government level for making submissions to the courts. He hoped the exercise at the government level can be speeded up and completed within four months. Mr. Narasimha Rao informed the house that he has found agreement on this approach.

Referring to the talks he had with the delegation of religious leaders, the prime minister said he told them that once the construction work in Ayodhya was stopped, he will revive the efforts initiated by the previous governments and by him. Reiterating his government's commitment to finding a negotiated settlement to the issue which fully respects the sentiments of both the communities involved, the prime minister said his party is for the construction of the temple without dismantling the mosque.

Giving a detailed background, the prime minister informed the members that despite repeated assurance from the Uttar Pradesh [UP] government to the center and the National Integration Council to implement the high court orders, the construction activity at the disputed site continued. He said the non-implementation of the high court orders created misgivings among the people. He said the UP government assured the court that it was using own means to ensure that an agreement is reached by all parties concerned so that the orders are effectively implemented. The Supreme Court in the light of the submissions by the UP government adjourned the hearing till today and said exploring a solution to this problem is in the larger national interest.

The prime minister said while it was responsibility of the state government to ensure implementation of the court order, the situation was allowed to escalate to a point where it expressed its inability to do anything. It requested that either the home minister or the prime minister should persuade the sants and mahants [Hindu religious leaders] to stop the work and it was in view of the critical situation that he had a meeting with the religious leaders. He appealed to all political parties and sections of the people to help in strengthening the traditional values of religious tolerance and in maintaining peace, tranquility and communal harmony.

Several members wanted to have clarifications on the prime minister's statement and with the consensus of the house, the speaker announced that a discussion on the matter will be taken up at noon tomorrow.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, told the Rajya Sabha later that he had not given any assurance to the religious leaders with whom he had discussions last week on the Ayodhya issue. Clarifying some points raised by the members, he said the negotiation is the beginning of the process to find an amicable solution to

the problem. They should also form part of the discussion he will have with political leaders, individuals and organizations. Mr. Rao appealed to all the political leaders to help the government to find a solution to this sensitive and serious matter.

Notes Need for Congenial Climate

BK2407161692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister says avenues for a peaceful settlement of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue through dialogue are still available and a congenial atmosphere has to be created for the purpose. Addressing the Congress-I Parliamentary Party in New Delhi this morning, Mr. Narasimha Rao said vigorous efforts will be made for a negotiated settlement of the dispute after the ongoing construction work at Ayodhya stops. Mr. Rao made it clear that principles will not be forsaken and duties shirked in dealing with the vexed problem. They said there is a long litigation pending in the courts and it should be disposed of as quickly as possible.

Giving background of the recent developments, the prime minister said that BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] threw off its hands saying it is not in control. That is why he promptly agreed to hold talks with all concerned. Mr. Narasimha Rao assured the members that the government will not be found wanting in firmness where it is needed. Expressing grave concern at the prevailing situation, the Congress-I president said history will not forgive if we do not insist on a peaceful settlement of the Ayodhya dispute since it can lead to undesirable consequences.

Briefing reporters the party spokesman said Mr. Arjun Singh placed on record members' deep appreciation of the firmness and patience demonstrated by the prime minister in his talks yesterday with the religious leaders.

Political Rallies Banned in Sindh Province

BK2607055892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] In Pakistan, protest meetings and processions have been banned in Sindh Province. The announcement made late last night comes in wake of the opposition plans to hold demonstrations in Karachi on Thursday [30 July]. Under the decree assembly of five or more people have been declared illegal. This is the first time since 1988 when restrictions have come on political activities. The opposition People's Democratic Alliance led by Ms. Benazir Bhutto has announced that it will go ahead with its plan to hold a big demonstration outside the Sindh assembly building on Thursday. Similar protest meetings are to be held at all other district headquarters against the continuance of the Muzaffar Hussain Shah ministry.

Our Islamabad correspondent reports that the PDA appears to be heading for a showdown as it has already announced plans for a nation-wide stir.

CPI-M Condemns U.S. Threat To Bomb Iraq

BK2507161092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has condemned the reported American threat to bombard Iraq if it does not agree unconditionally to meet the demands from Washington and its allies. In a statement issued in New Delhi, the party politburo termed the threat as a brazen attack on Iraq's sovereignty.

Two Australian Navy Ships To Visit 6-10 Aug

BK2507100792 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 92 p 12

[Excerpt] Two Australian Navy war ships will pay a goodwill visit to Madras in the beginning of August.

The ships are HMAS Swan and HMAS Westralia. While Swan is primarily an anti-submarine warship, Westralia is the largest ship in the Royal Australian Navy.

Both the ships will be visiting Madras from August 6 to 10 while passing through the Indian Ocean.

The visit of the two ships would strengthen the naval links between the two countries, according to Australian High Commissioner, David Evans.

In the recent past, the Indian and the Australian navies had carried out a joint exercise off Andamans and Nicobar Islands.

Australia and many South-East countries earlier used to express concern over India's ambition to make its navy a blue-water capability force which would then be in a position to command the Indian Ocean channels.

In fact, an Australian author has written a fiction book visualising the security scenario in Asia in the next century in which the Indian Navy "captured" a small island of Australia.

Despite an underdeveloped fishing industry, India is the sixth largest fishing nation with an export earning of Rs 877 crore. The present catch of about three million tonne can be increased manifolds if the exclusive economic zone is properly exploited. The expanding fishing activity places additional responsibility on the navy for prevention of poaching by foreign trawlers in the country's waters.

Many Indians are not aware of their glorious maritime traditions. The Indians were one of the greatest seafaring people in the ancient days; their feats no less pioneering than those of the Phoenecians, the Greeks, the Polynesians and the Vikings. They had gone west to the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and the East African coast over 2,000 years ago. To the east, the Indian people had struck out into the Bay of Bengal, the South China sea and the Indonesia archipelagic waters, and flourishing Indian kingdoms had come into existence, stretching out as far as Kampuchea and Bali.

It is one of the greatest tragedies of the country's history that, after being a vibrant blue-water maritime nation for over a millenium, India decided to "withdraw into a coastal shell." The 13th century witnessed a rapid decline of the Indian maritime power, from a dominant oceanic power, plummetted to an insignificant coastal auxiliary.

Still, many South-Eastern nations like Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia and Australia still fear that India's navy has ambitious plans like to procure bigger aircraft carriers and nuclear powered submarines, which can tilt the balance in this subcontinent. But India has maintained that it wants to make its navy a blue-water credible force but has no desire to "command" the nations in the region.

Some defence experts, in fact, wonder whether the South-East nations and Australia are acting merely as "proxies" for someone else or are playing the "India card" to justify the need for more funds to expand their naval fleet.

For some time, India has been developing close links with the region's navies. The Indian navy carried out joint exercises with the navies of Indonesia, Australia, France, Britain and the United States. But no joint exercises are scheduled to be held in the near future. [passage omitted]

Iran

UK Expels 3 Iranians, Denies Retaliatory Motive

LD2407172792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The British Foreign Office announced in a statement issued today that it has ordered three Iranians to leave the country within seven days or be deported. The British Foreign Office issued the expulsion order on grounds of security. Based on this statement, British Home Secretary Clarke endorsed these three expulsion orders.

It is said that two of these individuals are local staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in London.

According to available reports, British government sources denied that there is any link between the expulsion of these three Iranians and the recent expulsion from Iran of the British Third Secretary Geoffrey Brammer.

Attempt on Rushdie's Life Cited

LD2407200492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in London rejected the accusations against the three Iranians whose expulsion order was issued by the British Home Office today. Two of the three work at the embassy, and the other is a student. They have been accused of attempting to kill Salman Rushdie. A spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in London said in an interview with IRNA that the expulsion of the three Iranians from Britain is in retaliation for the expulsion from Iran of Geoffrey Brammer, third secretary at the British Embassy. He added: Even though British Government sources rejected links between these two cases, nevertheless, a British Foreign Office source told The INDEPENDENT newspaper two days ago that Britain reserved the right to retaliate.

'Retaliatory Move' Seen

LD2507110692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0954 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Some time ago the British Embassy in Iran was informed that the embassy third secretary must leave the country within one month due to illegal contact with an Iranian citizen.

For that reason, in a retaliatory move yesterday the British Government announced that three Iranian citizens residing in London should leave that country within one week.

The three are not diplomats; they are among the local employees of Iran's diplomatic legation in London. [sentence as heard]

The expulsion of the third secretary of the British Embassy in Tehran was accomplished according to justified and legal reasons while the measure adopted by the British Home Office was within the framework of a blind reprisal and without any legal justification.

Some time ago, meanwhile, four trucks loaded with antiques and old relics were stopped on the Bazargan frontier post [on border with Turkey]. The cargo, carried under the name of the Italian charge d'affaires in Iran, included dozens of paintings and metal and stone statues and hundreds of antiques of wood, metal and ceramics.

The Iranian Government's reaction against the illegal behavior of diplomats in Tehran is, in reality, in protest of the abuse of diplomatic immunity and privileges. These diplomats, abusing these privileges and immune from judicial action, engage in activities against the security of the country and they steal cultural goods and heritage.

Smuggling antiques is not confined to recent years; it goes back to the time when diplomatic relations were established between the developing countries and the Westerners. One can decisively say that the large parts of the cultural wealth of important and famous museums in Europe and America consist of articles that over that period have been plundered from the developing countries. According to a UNESCO estimate, annually more than $1 billion worth of the cultural heritage of the

developing countries is smuggled to the developed countries, principally to France, Britain and America.

Some Western diplomats, abusing privileges and immunity which they enjoy, engage in illegal activities. Yet, the purpose behind granting of privileges and immunity to diplomats is not to allow individuals to benefit. The purpose is to facilitate good performance of diplomatic duties.

The principle requiring diplomats to respect laws of the place of their service and also the principle of forbidding the diplomats to interfere in the internal affairs of the host country are among obvious principles of diplomatic and international relations. The host country, while respecting international relations, also shoulders the responsibility of maintaining its own security. Obviously, that responsibility is among the most fundamental duties of every government. It is more important than the immunity of an individual.

One of the duties of diplomatic legations is to expand friendly ties and economic, cultural and scientific relations. Can one regard such acts as engaging in espionage and stealing cultural relics as moves towards deepening friendly relations?

The reaction of the host country against such activities is recognized as a right. Yet, the measure adopted by the British Government in expelling the three Iranian citizens from that country must be regarded as a consequence of mental fossilization relating to the era of colonialism.

Times have changed. One cannot expect past ignorance to continue to be the instrument of foreigners' interference in domstic affairs and stealing of cultural relics. The developing countries have repeatedly tasted the bitterness of these problems. Thus, suspicion and mistrust in those countries towards the activities of diplomatic legations are current phenomena. These are fully logical phenomena which have their roots in the past and present performance of these so-called diplomats.

London Accused of 'Hostile Moves'

NC2507165892 Paris AFP in English 1618 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Report by Kianousche Dorranie]

[Excerpt] Tehran, July 25 (AFP) - Troubled relations between Iran and Britain were at an all-time low Saturday following the expulsions of nationals from both countries and a warning from parliament here to revise ties with London.

Iranian newspapers accused London of hostile moves after the British home office on Friday ordered two Iranian embassy staff and an Iranian national to leave within a week for reasons of national security. The decision appeared to be a tit-for-tat measure after Iran ordered British diplomat Geoffrey Brammer last week to leave the country by the end of the month citing "suspect activity incompatible with his status."

Brammer, a third secretary at the British embassy here, was asked to leave because he played squash with an Iranian commercial pilot, London said. But according to the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper Brammer was a "spy."

"The British have never wanted to have healthy and sincere ties with Iran," the newspaper said. "Relations between Iran and Britain, which have deteriorated anew, have never been worse than over the past two years," the pro-radical ABRAR newspaper added in a commentary Saturday. [passage omitted]

Daily on Revising Ties With London

LD2607162392 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Two morning dailies Sunday commented on last week's strain in Tehran-London ties, resulting from the undiplomatic behaviour of a British diplomat in Iran, and London's unexplained decision on Thursday to expel three Iranians.

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" described as "illogical", the expansion of ties with Britain and called for a "fundamental revision" of Tehran-London diplomatic relations.

It was critical of the Foreign Ministry's decision to grant a month's time to Geoffrey Brammer, third secretary at the British embassy, to leave Iran because of his violating of diplomatic norms.

The daily asked: "Why a month's notice for a British spy to leave Iran? Was it not propoer to give him some hours to prevent him from further exploiting his presence in Iran?

"Obviously, no government would stand the presence of identified foreign spies on its soil. To this end, Brammer's illegal attempt for spying and gathering secret information on the defence potentials and combat power of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces, can by no means be tolerated."

It also called London's decision to expel two Iranian embassy staffers and a doctorate student on unfounded charges as an "indifferent and provocative step which would lead to mobilization of public opinion in the Muslim world against Britain and its plots."

Diplomatic, economic and cultural ties with Britain should be reduced to the "minimum possible level" and students should be dispatched to countries enjoying "higher scientific standards", said JOMHURI.

It added that the Islamic Republic Government, by adopting a clear strategy in this connection, could thwart any possible plots by the British Government and lay the foundations of its sound policy within the framework of its own principles and criteria.

Britain, the old colonial power, took an adverse attitude towards the Islamic Republic after the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

In 1989 diplomatic ties were severed by the Majles after its serving of a week's notice to London not to support the blasphemous work "The Satanic Verses" authored by Indian-born Apostate Salman Rushdie who according to divine laws was sentenced to death by the father of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni.

However, following public disavowal of Rushdie's sacrilegious work by senior British officials, relations were restored in September 1990 between the two countries.

Commenting on the same subject, "KAR-O-KARGAR" noted that Iran's good-will regarding expansion of relations with certain European countries has been misinterpreted by some of those countries as Tehran's urgent need to do so.

"However, the emphasis the leader of the revolution has put on the fact that Iran should be reconstructed by Iranians, is indicative of the reality that our nation will never establish relations with others on the basis of its needs," it said.

The daily cautioned that the appropriate step taken by Iran's Foreign Ministry in asking a British diplomatic to leave the country, should be taken as a good lesson by other foreign embassies here.

"They (those countries) should know that expansion of their ties with Iran is based on respect for mutual interests. Any negligence in this regards, would naturally entail deserving reaction," it noted.

UK Said Denying Visas to Iranian Nationals

LD2607160792 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—The British embassy in a press release here Sunday denied reports carried by some newspapers today that the embassy has stopped issuing visas to Iranian nationals until further notice.

Several Persian dailies carried articles that unconfirmed reports indicate that the British embassy has stopped issuing visas to Iranian citizens.

The press release signed by the British Charge D'Affaires D.N. Reddaway said that the visa office remains open, and "it is difficult to get through on the telephone because of the number of people trying to make appointments."

It said that those who had made an appointment should refer to the embassy as scheduled.

SAIRI Leader on Opposition Groups Meeting

LD2507192592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] In the opinion of the head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], Saddam Husayn is stirring up foreign crises in response to popular uprisings within Iraq. Hojjat-ol-Eslam Hakim, who spoke to reporters today, drew the UN Security Council's attention to the problem of keeping Iraq's internal crises under wraps, and said: According to recent reports, Saddam's army has once again used napalm and chemical bombs in its confrontation with popular forces in southern Iraq.

Referring to the propaganda emanating from the United States and the West regarding the removal of Saddam from power, he said: There has not yet been the necessary coordination between the Iraqi army and western forces on how to bring down Saddam's regime and replace it with a new U.S.-backed military government in Iraq.

Hojjat-ol-Eslam Hakim described SAIRI's activities aimed at overthrowing Saddam and said: SAIRI is currently trying to convene a conference with the participation of all groups which oppose the regime ruling Iraq, in order to lay the groundwork for the formation of a national assembly [Majles-e Melli] in that country.

The head of SAIRI added: Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia have supported the holding of a conference of all groups opposed to the Iraqi regime. Kurdish opposition groups have also stressed that they will take part if the conditions are favorable.

Hojjat-ol-Eslam Hakim rejected any kind of effort toward the dismemberment of Iraq, and stressed: The dismemberment of Iraq would not be to the advantage of the region nor of the Iraqi people, including the country's Kurdish population.

At the end of his Tehran news conference, he said: SAIRI opposes all foreign interference, including U.S. interference, in Iraq's internal affairs.

Kurd Leader Warned Against Annexation With Turkey

LD2607161292 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday warned against last Friday's remarks of the leader of Patriotic Union of Iraq Jalal Talabani who, enroute from Washington to Ankara, said: "Iraqi Kurds would rather join Turkey than stay in a non-democratic Iraq."

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" in its 'Political Outlook' noted that although Talabani had not explicitly pointed to the annexation of Iraq's Kurdish populated north to Turkey, such statements could be considered a threat

against Muslim Kurds, the territorial integrity of Iraq, and national security of the region.

"Apparently it seems that Mr. Talabani has forgotten the fact that the U.S. State Department in a report has enlisted Turkey among the most insecure countries in the world. Moreover, Amnesty International has constantly condemned Iraq for its brutal torture and suppression of the Kurds."

Under the status quo, when America and its allies are reviewing the possibility of a renewed military attack against Iraq, once again the expansionist tendencies of Ankara politicians have been manifested in the statements of an Iraqi Kurdish leader.

The paper concluded by calling on the Iraqi opposition Kurds to get united and refrain from relying on alien powers as well as for the formation of an independent Islamic coalition government which could rule over Iraq as a whole.

Habibi Congratulates Afghan Prime Minister Farid

LD2607125692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] In a message addressed to Mr 'Abdol Sabur Farid, First Vice President Habibi congratulated him about being chosen the prime minister of Afghanistan. Part of the message—which expresses pleasure over the fruition of the 14-year holy jihad of the Afghan people—states: The people of Afghanistan have achieved this victory by relying on the power of faith, solidarity, self- sacrifice, and awe-inspiring resistance.

Envoy Meets Indian Minister in New Delhi 24 Jul

LD2507105692 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Text] New Delhi, July 24, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador in New Delhi, Ibrahim Rahimpur, today, met the Indian minister of state for external affairs, Raghunandan Lal Bhatia, and discussed about furthering of relations between the two countries.

The two also discussed important regional issues in the light of the changing world order.

The two dignitaries, who met for the first time this moring, also discussed about ways of developing regional economic cooperation and means of maintaining economic stability as well as peace and security in the region. The role of India and Iran for achieving the same was prominent in the discussions.

Latest developments in the strife torn Afghanistan also appeared in the discussions in which the two sides emphasised on creating a peaceful environment and helping the country's leadership in finding a permanent solution to their problems.

The newly appointed minister for state for external affairs, Bhatia, in his meeting referred to the old and traditional Indo-Iran relations and called the Iranian president, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, a great international personality.

Envoy, Turkish Minister on Economic Commission

LD2507122192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Text] The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Turkey held a meeting yesterday afternoon with the Turkish state minister [not further identified] responsible for the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Commission. Issues of interest to both countries were discussed at the meeting.

The ambassador of our country stressed the need to expand relations in all fields and called for serious steps by the Turkish Government in order to solve existing problems including: the illegal confiscation of the ship Cape Maleas; the seizure of a truck bearing goods for the Heavy Industries Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the imprisonment of its driver; existing difficulties in cross-border trade; and the bullying of Iranian truck drivers and Iranian passengers in Turkey.

The official of the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Commission expressed his country's readiness to solve the said problems and said: The Istanbul court has adjourned its final session to cancel the impound order on the ship for certain administrative reasons, including the judges' vacations. There is no doubt that the problem will be solved once and for all in the next session in 20 days time.

Sudanese Colonel Meets With President, Velayati

LD2607105192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with Colonel Muhammad Sulayman, member of Sudan's Revolution Command Council and special envoy of the Sudanese president, before noon today. In the meeting at which Dr. Hamdi, Sudan's minister of finance and economic planning, and Mr. Roghani Zanjani, the vice president and head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization, were also present, first, Mr. 'Umar al-Bashir's special envoy, having conveyed the Sudanese leader's most sincere greetings, submitted his written message to our country's president.

Pointing to the memorable and historic visit of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Sudan, Colonel Sulayman conveyed the respects of that country's officials and people to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and called for the continuation of the large-scale cooperation between the two countries in all fields of mutual interest.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for his turn, thanked the Sudanese leader and Muslim people for their fraternal feelings and for the warm message of Mr. 'Umar al-Bashir. Having expressed his satisfaction at the growing trend of bilateral cooperation in the fileds of development, road construction, commercial exchange of goods such as sugar, cotton, meat, medicine, and industrial cooperation, the president stressed the need for further expansion of such cooperation.

Colonel Muhammad Sulayman also held a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. The ways and means of expanding bilateral relations, regional and international developments—especially issues relating to Africa—were discussed at the meeting. The two sides stressed the strengthening and expansion of bilateral ties.

Colonel Muhammad Sulayman praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's active role in the region and the world and thanked Iran for its strong support for the world of Islam. He called for an increase in the effective role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in finding solutions to the problems of the Islamic world.

Mr. Velayati welcomed the Sudanese Government's proposal for the establishment of a follow-up committee consisting of the foreign ministries of the two countries to implement mutual agreements. He said: This committee will be set up simultaneously in Tehran and Khartoum. Mr. Velayati also announced our country's backing for the decision of the Islamic Conference Organization regarding the next foreign ministerial session of that Organization in Sudan.

In the first round of Iranian-Sudanese talks, held this morning between heads of the two countries' joint commission, bilateral cooperation on oil issues, and promotion of economic cooperation were examined. According to our correspondent's report, Mr Roghani Zanjani, the vice president and the Iranian head of the joint Iranian-Sudanese commission, announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to help Sudan to the best of its ability. He said: Effective steps have already been taken to that end, and we are trying to remove the existing obstacles in the way.

Then, Colonel Muhammad Sulayman, who heads the Sudanese delegation in the two countries' joint commission, called for technical assistance and investment in terms of exploration of Sudan's oil reserves, purchase of oil from Iran, and export of agricultural products, livestock and meat to Iran.

Mr. Zanjani, too, at the end of the meeting, declared our country's readiness to extend technical and expert assistance toward oil exploration in Sudan, and economic cooperation in terms of the sale of oil to Sudan and the purchase of agricultural products from that country.

Commentary Views Situation in Algeria

NC2607162892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Belaid Abdessalam, the new Algerian prime minister, introduced his cabinet to the country's High Security Council this week. The new cabinet consists of 22 ministers, seven of whom held ministerial posts in the cabinet of former Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali.

Abdessalam's cabinet is the fourth to assume office in this country in the past four years. The new Algerian Government is taking over the reins of government at a time when unrest and antigovernment demonstrations have reached alarming dimensions. The latest wave of unrest is in reaction to the verdicts of the military tribunal's sentencing the leaders of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and the Front's request to the people to display their indignation against these verdicts.

The military tribunal sentenced 'Abbas Madani and 'Ali Belhaj, the president and vice president of the FIS, respectively, to 12 years imprisonment and five other leaders to four to six years imprisonment.

Widespread demonstrations by the Algerian Muslim people this week resulted in scores killed and wounded. Armed groups carried out attacks on government centers as a manifestation of their fury toward the Algerian rulers.

As a result of the intensity of the clashes, the country has entered a new stage. The increasing protests by the Algerian Muslim people and their demand for the nation's will to be respected and an Islamic government to be established has accentuated the fact that any measure that does not take role of the Algerian Muslims into account is doomed to failure.

The current rulers of Algeria have observed that the ruthless and repressive policies of the former head of the High Security Council, Boudiaf, were ineffective in the face of the wave of Islamism and are now seeking new ways to resolve the current crisis. In this regard, Ali Kafi, who assumed power following Boudiaf's assassination, propounded a national reconciliation plan for ending the current unrest. FLN Secretary General Abdolmajid Mehri spoke of a national reconciliation program that would include the FIS at a news conference recently. He said that the Algerian ruling council will present this plan shortly.

In view of the fact that the Algerian ruling council declared the FIS illegal, its invitation to the FIS to participate in the national reconciliation program marks a significant development. Political experts believe that the removal of Sid Ahmed Ghozali and the majority of

his cabinet—who did not enjoy any measure of popularity among the Algerian people—and the national reconciliation plan may defuse the situation.

However, the final solution to the crisis will only be reached when the rulig party takes practical steps to respect the will of the people.

Arab Coordination Over 'Compromise' Talks Viewed

LD2607134592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1004 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The foreign ministries of the Arab States, currently engaged in talks with the Zionist regime, ended their two-day session in Damascus with a statement. The Egyptian foreign minister, who is not considered to be one of the sides in the discussions, also participated in the sessions. Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, represented the PLO in the Damascus session.

Although the foreign ministries of the Arab states, currently engaged in talks with the Zionist regime, have so far held three similar sessions in Damascus, Oman, and Beirut to coordinate their positions in the compromise talks, political analysts consider the Damascus gathering to be of greater importance because it came after a series of political activities, and in fact is considered a kind of reaction to them.

The first development in the region was Yitzhaq Rabin's victory in the Israeli elections and his assumption of power instead of Yitzhaq Shamir, the former Zionist regime's prime minister. Although Rabin is no different from Shamir from the general and strategic policy viewpoint, his attitude toward the compromise talks between the Arabs and Israel is more sophisticated and diplomatic. After forming his cabinet, Rabin temporarily stopped the construction of new Zionist settlements in some areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and called on the Palestinians to enter separate talks with Israel regarding limited political autonomy.

Another development was U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-day visit to the Arab region of the Middle East and his talks with the Zionist regime's officials, the Arab sides taking part in the talks, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. During his visit, Baker tried to create a fresh atmosphere between the Arabs and Israel by stressing the new Israeli position which has been declared regarding the compromise talks. Those talks had met with difficulty because of the intransigence of Yitzhaq Shamir, the former Israeli prime minister.

Baker's objective in reactivating the Israeli-Arab peace talks is in reality gaining political success for the government of George Bush, the American President in the election campaign. At the same time as Baker's visit to Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and [Saudi] Arabia, Yitzhaq Rabin visited Egypt and spoke to Egyptian officials, including President Husni Mubarak, on reactivating the peace talks.

By seizing the initiative, Israel and America have started a political offensive against the Arab States taking part in the talks. In this offensive, they also try to make use of political and economic levers. That is why they were stressing Egypt as a connecting link and at the same time Baker's visit extended as far as Saudi Arabia.

The Arab States taking part in the talks—especially Syria—which generally has a harder stance toward the Zionist regime and is subjected more to American and Israeli pressure—were concerned at this new political offensive by America and the Zionist regime. To organize themselves and avoid adopting a reactive policy in this diplomatic confrontation, they convened the Damascus session. The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] refused to take part in the session despite being invited. Instead, for the first time, Egypt took part in the gathering in Damascus of the foreign ministers of Arab states engaged in talks with the Zionist regime. Political analysts described Egypt's participation as a measure to perform its new role as the connecting link in the compromise efforts.

The Damascus session statement is in reality a repetition of the past positions of the Arabs against the Zionist regime. Although this repetition of position, after Baker's visit to the region, Rabin's to Egypt, and the Zionist regime's invitation for separate talks with the Palestinians, are considered to be successes in their own right, and at least indicate initial coordination among the Arab sides, instead, Egypt's participation in the session and the refusal by the GCC and AMU to take part in the session have been described as weak points.

The final statement is an amalgam of some political positions and rightful demands and the acceptance of a some unjust and imposed realities. It is an initial document for later political bargaining. But what is considered to be the decisive factor in the next stage of the Arab-Israeli talks and will actually make the result clear and decide the trend of talks is the two sides' political struggle and not the rightfulness of the demands. Of course in this struggle America is standing by Israel.

Commentary Views Asylum-Seeking 'Phenomenon'

NC2607160792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God: The international seminar on refugees concludes today. During this three-day seminar, Iranian officials and international experts are reviewing the issue of asylum seeking. In today's world, the phenomenon of asylum seeking has resulted from the proliferation of injustice and severe poverty.

In the past 14 years, refugees from neighboring countries have come to Iran. These refugees are all victims of domestic violence and poverty. According to latest statistics, Islamic Iran has provided shelter to 4 million refugees and homeless people. In the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution, our country was the target of various internal and external conspiracies. The majority of these refugees are Afghans, Iraqis, and Kuwaitis.

The civil strife in Afghanistan and the 1990 Persian Gulf crisis resulted in a wave of refugees pouring into our country. Islamic Iran—in defense of human rights and in view of its humanitarian Islamic ideology—has never abandoned the homeless and houses the highest number of refugees on its soil.

Until last year, one-fourth [as heard] of the world's refugees resided in Iran. In addition to government assistance, the Iranian people have helped the refugees. However, the government has faced difficulties in catering to the needs of the refugees. Some 7 percent of the refugees live in camps. The other 93 percent are scattered all over Iran and move around without any restrictions.

International assistance for meeting the needs of these refugees has been inadequate. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] allocated only $10 million for refugee affairs. Because the phenomenon of emigration and asylum seeking generates distinctive accompanying socioeconomic problems, countries strive to centralize refugees in camps so they can avail themselves of greater assistance.

The current dispersal of refugees all over Iran poses a problem with assessing the refugee situation in the cities. We need increased assistance from international organizations. Now that the way has been paved for the return of the refugees to their countries, one should strive to facilitate their repatriation with coordination and planning.

The director general of the Interior Ministry's Office of Alien Affairs and Foreign Refugees recently said that we spend a lot of money every year to look after the refugees. The UNHCR should provide the maximum assistance it can and prepare the ground for these refugees to return to their respective countries. We request greater cooperation in this area.

There is no doubt that Islamic Iran will continue its humanitarian efforts. It is the obligation of all government and private charitable organizations to assist refugees at all times and in all places.

Ties With Germany After Velayati Visit Viewed

NC2407124492 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "A Successful or Unsuccessful Visit?"]

[Text] Political and news forums still carry on discussions and analyses of Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati's recent two-day trip to Germany and his meeting with high-ranking German officials. In the course of this meeting, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, while accepting President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's invitation to visit Iran, said he would make the visit at a propitious time.

Dr. Velayati, meanwhile, entered Bonn at a time when, over the past two weeks, a series of dubious movements have been launched by the opponent of Iran in the West, particularly by the U.S. and British Parliaments, aimed at isolating the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The German officials' warm reception of a foreign minister as they would have received a country's leader was an appropriate response by Bonn to London and Washington to the effect that what fits in the framework of the national interests of the U.S. and Britain does not necessarily go along with the national interests of Germany.

The point was also mentioned by Kohl who noted that the Persian Gulf was one of the most sensitive regions of that world, that Iran played a key role in this strategic region, and that Germany regarded an important role for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the new world developments. Iran is the biggest trade partner of Germany in the Middle East.

But why do some Western mass media, especially in Britain and the U.S., make attempts to present this visit as eventful and unsuccessful? For example, Dr. Velayati's official flight was slated for 13 p.m. [as published] according to the German Foreign Ministry's schedule. The flight took place at the appointed time; yet some news agencies reported that it took place two hours earlier than scheduled. They also portrayed an attack launched by some 5 or 6 people in Potsdam as a massive protest movement, while the like of this can occur anywhere in the world for the politicians.

At any rate, the Tehran-Bonn ties are at a very favorable level, but this does not purport that the ties are problem-free. For instance, as yet the volume of trade relations between the two countries is not equitable. German exports to Iran are far more than its imports from Iran. And Germany should opt for a serious revision in this connection.

Because they do not have a colonialistic record in Iran, the Germans enjoy especial popularity among the masses of Iranian people. The Iranian mass media too has not held a negative attitude and viewpoint toward Germany, even though the German Embassy in Tehran, over the past years, has never been able to have sound and warm relations with the Iranian press.

The Iranian press, however, have passed unnoticed many of the contemptible approaches adopted by the German Embassy toward the Iranians. They moreover, did not seek to inflict serious damage to the mutual ties of Tehran and Bonn. But this silence cannot go on in the

long-term. If the two countries are to have strategic relations, both should carry out a serious revision to remove the weaknesses.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs SNSC Meeting

NC2607061392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] held a session under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani last night. The session was attended by political advisers, high-level military commanders and all members of the SNSC.

President Stresses Value of Education

LD2507153992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Dear listeners: As you heard in the news bulletin, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met medical students from Iran and those studying abroad today. We draw your attention to a report about this matter:

Stressing the fact that students are the main source of investment by the country and the revolution, the president reiterated the importance of specialist forces' adherence to Islamic values. Pointing out the good grounds for construction, growth, independence, and the huge public support for positive and constructive moves, the president said: A suitable opportunity exists in the country for specialist forces to take up administrative affairs.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the the nation's relative dependence on internal forces in executive, technical, and specialist tasks, and the low number of foreigners in these affairs, and stressed the need to reach a suitable level in specialist spheres saying: If we fail to meet our requirements, the continuation and success of the revolution would face difficulties in the current conditions of the world. The president added: Many of the nation's important tasks are yet to be carried out. They must be done or we shall be dependent and in need. In this world the centers of world economic power—and even those regions which do not have a colonial attitude—do not want the world policy of the Islamic revolution to get established. For the same reason, not only do they not assist us in any way, they create obstacles for us.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out the impossibility of complete self-sufficiency of countries, and referred to the fact that communications and economic, political, and cultural exchange are essential. He continued: We must be a strong base for our own needs so that we are not open blackmail. Our exchanges must be so that if monopolists were to impose policies, we could change our channels without being in a reactive position. [passage omitted: importance of universities, expressed hope for success of five-year plan, health minister's comments]

Ayatollah Jannati Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2407205492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 92

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Jannati at Tehran University on 24 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The aim of the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice is twofold. One is that one must reform those who commit vice. We must help them. We must not allow their pain to become chronic. We must not let them gradually become infested, beyond cure. Do not forget this point. It is here that one should be careful how to confront that issue; we must do so with a view to reforming the afflicted person. We must not worsen his condition; we must not expose him. We must not do anything which—if he used to commit one sin up till now—may force him to commit two or three or 10 sins. Or if he used to commit his sins in hiding he may do so in public. That is the first point. Please take care that your confrontation is aimed at reforming the wrongdoers. And each case merits a different approach. You cannot have the same approach with everybody. One person is better saved by reading poetry; another person else may like to hear a Koranic verse. Others need sermonizing or story-telling. With some people you must use tough language; with others soft language. In each case there is a different way. Those who engage in prohibiting vice must know psychology to some extent. That is a delicate point; sometimes you want to reform but you end up making it worse.

The second aim of propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice is the reform of society. Let us assume that that person cannot be reformed, he does not listen to advice or anything. If that person openly indulges in fornication and debauchery, he will corrupt the society.

He may be afflicted with AIDS. Should we let him loose on society? Should we say: He cannot be reformed, so let him go and let him do what he likes? No, he must be quarantined. He must be limited. He must be stopped. The spread of this disease must stop. These things are important.

Just look at this American plague. AIDS is America's gift to the world. If any other country had done this, there would been made such a hue and cry that that country is backward or whatever. Such a disease has been found there. Oh people! Do not catch this disease. But America gave this disease to the so-called uncivilized world.

Now if we find such a person, a person afflicted with AIDS, we will check him. If we cannot cure him, we will definitely put him in a place where he has no contact

with the outside world. He will not have any contact with others; therefore, others will not be infected. [passage omitted]

But what is important is the quality of work. It is the duty of every individual Muslim to propagate virtue and prohibit vice—wife with regard to her husband and husband to wife; children toward father and father to children. And in the organizations subordinates may exercise it toward superiors and superiors toward subordinates. There is no distinction here. If a catering servant sees that a boss is doing something that is prohibited, he must—provided he is observing the necessary conditions—engage in prohibiting vice. One cannot say to servant: What has it got to do with you? Suppose that an attendant learns of someting improper, or a guard learns that a man and a woman are alone in a room and the door is closed. That is a sin. If a man and a woman who are not mahram [are not married nor are they mother and son or father and daughter] are in a room with closed doors, this is a sin. He sees it and understands. He comes to the boss and says it is improper and why did you do it. Here you cannot say: You are a teaboy, you are an attendant, and it is none of your business. That is a public duty. [passage omitted]

We must bring about a movement. We have neglected our religious duty to enjoin virtue and prohibit vice. As a result, many dams are going under water [as heard]. We must value our Hezbollahis. If there are some who cannot tolerate Hezbollahis and cannot work with Hezbollahis, then they must be purged. They must not remain at their positions. I have seen and heard that some officials at top levels had problems with Hezbollahis and they have removed the Hezbollahis. Islamic societies used to complain to me repeatedly that because they used to engage in prohibiting vice, they were transferred from one place to another or were replaced or dismissed. That means that Mr. Manager cannot tolerate being told by anybody. Such managers must either be reformed; if they cannot be reformed then they should be removed. [crowd chants slogans] [passage omitted]

There have been such people. No matter what you say to the official he does not heed. There was a head of a faculty whose corruption was proven to me personally. Hezbollahi boys came to me crying. They were weeping. No matter how much we called on this man's superior remove him or asked what do you want him for; he would say: He is efficient. I don't know. Now this issue must be resolved. If efficiency is the thing for them, then open the country's gates for any liberal who is efficient to come in; for any expert who is efficient to come in; if they could not be from here [expatriates] and are foreigners, let them come in. Open the gates. Then write above the Islamic revolution: Rest in peace [al-fateha]. This cannot be. What false thought this is. If this were to be, then after the fall of the shah we would have continued the same path. The same foreign military advisers would be there; the same foreign experts would be there. We would not be telling the boys to go and put out the oil flames yourselves, manufacture spare parts yourselves, restart tasks left dormant. No, foreign experts and advisors would do all that and go and then they would plunder everything. The revolution would have no meaning in such a case. Some people are now standing outside, promising themselves that the ground is now prepared. It is not true. The ground is not prepared; you are mistaken. No one dares to prepare the ground for you. [crowd chants support]

I warn them, in this country until— please let me finish my words, I don't want to keep you long— I warn them, as long as the Friday prayers exist in this country, as long as there is leadership at the top, as long as there exist Hezbollah and Basijis in this country, the doors will be closed to you forever. Or become Muslims, become human beings. Then come here. That's no problem. We'll welcome you. Come here on condition that your wife wears Islamic dress; that your daughter wears Islamic dress. If your son seeks to establish the sovereignty of capital within your area of expertise, your wealth, and your capital... [pauses] the revolution was to eliminate the sovereignty of capital. If once again the sovereignty of capital comes back, then again a funeral must be held for everything. The roots of vice must be found. The sovereignty of capital is one of the roots of vice. Someone commits some misdemeanor by relying on his capital and then goes and sees this or that official, calls him, offers gifts, gives parties and thereby shrugs off his misdemeanors. If this is to go on, it means giving up everything. These are the roots of vice. By the same token, corrupt management is one of the roots of vice. The ministries, the managers, and the heads must be vigilant.

There has been plenty of support in recent days. May God reward them all. We truly thank them. It is clear that they have given their support sincerely. But these matters, enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice, must be implemented. In a year's time... [pauses] It occurs to me that there should be an anniversary for those commands and statements of Khamene'i. On the anniversary we should look back at the performance and see how those who gave such support did in the implementation, may God give them their reward. [passage omitted]]

First, vice must be identified as such from the point of view of its meaning and import. Second, we must see if an action that a person has committed is a vice. We may know the meaning of the vice but not its context. We must not keep investigating, probing. We must not pursue people, to see whether the woman to whom a man is speaking is a close relative, or what their relationship is. We are not responsible for such things; we have no duty regarding this. There is a lot to be said about this. [passage omitted]

Daily Views Larijani Culture Portfolio Acceptance

NC2407130392 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Larijani's Acceptance of Ministry Post a Bold Step"]

[Text] In ceremonies held on Saturday [18 Jul] at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in the presence of the deputies, advisors, and heads of relevant organizations, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Dr. 'Ali Larijani was introduced and Dr. Mohammad Khatami was thanked for the services he rendered during his tenure of office. In the course of the eleven years during which Dr. Khatami served as minister of culture and Islamic guidance, considerable services were rendered for the promotion of art and culture in society and this should be greatly appreciated.

This is particularly significant, as all through his tenure, Dr. Khatami served with rectitude and did not misuse his position. It is befitting for an Islamic society to express gratitude as best as possible to those who truly serve the people. No one can claim to be devoid of oversights, but what is significant for the Islamic society of Iran is that the actions of a manager should be coupled with good will and be in tune with the general objectives of the revolution. Anyhow, Dr. Khatami submitted his resignation and Dr. Larijani was appointed today the post. Dr. Larijani is an individual who has been brought up in a totally scientific and cultural family circle and milieu. In addition, he has thirteen years of experience in executive affairs.

Even though experts believe that accepting this post was a very difficult task in view of the fundamental problems faced by this ministry and especially the political and propaganda ballyhoo engulfing it, acceptance of this post entailed especial bravery becoming a combatant IRGC member, because the least that could come out of defeat in performing this task is to imperil the reputation of Larijani; yet Larijani, aware of this matter, bravely accepted the position.

If the first decade of the revolution involved military inroads to crush the system, evidence points out that the second decade involves cultural invasion and inroads launched by the enemies of the Islamic Revolution against the revolution. And Dr. Larijani has accepted the post in such a condition. At such a juncture, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance serves as the first and foremost stronghold of the system in safeguarding the achievements of the revolution

Without a tinge of doubt, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has had mistakes in its activities. But Dr. Larijani should know that the opponents of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance were mainly two groups. First, those who were truly sympathetic toward the revolution and who spoke with concern and warned of the dangers of cultural invasion and inroads. Second, those who unfortunately wanted to settle political accounts with the officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance by abusing the existing climate in the country's political scene against the said ministry. They even cherished a greedy, desire to occupy the seats of the ministry.

It is hoped that, as a recognized individual, Dr. Larijani, while respecting the beliefs and criticisms of the first group and while using their views, will not allow the political and cultural opportunists to grow in the country's cultural atmosphere.

Velayati Cited on Nonproliferation Treaty

LD2607163892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] A one-day seminar on the national effects of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty was convened today in the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the participation of the foreign minister and a number of experts and military officials.

At the seminar, Mr. Velayati viewed the present and future system governing international relations. He said: Considering that we are ourselves among the main victims of the deployment of chemical weapons and that even before the Halabjah tragedy we were the standard-bearers for peace and the total banning of these kinds of weapons in the world, we still view the nuclear nonproliferation treaty in a positive manner, taking into account the lofty interests of our system [of the Islamic Republic]. We hope that the remaining issues in the treaty will be solved with special regard for the difficulties and concerns of countries and that the draft of the treaty will be accepted.

New Governor General Appointed for Gilan Province

LD2507154292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Nuri today attended the administrative council session of Gilan Province. Thanking Mr. Tabeshi, the former governor general of Gilan Province, for his services, he introduced Mr. Taha'i as the new governor general of the province. [passage omitted]

Update on Arak Petrochemical Complex Construction

LD2507180692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 25 Jul 92

[Summary] Seventy-five percent of the work on the first phase of Arak petrochemical complex has been completed. It will be commissioned in February 1993, after which the complex will have the capacity to produce 350,000 tonnes per year of polymers and chemical products. It will meet 40 percent of the country's needs for chemical fertilizer; plastics; man-made polymers; tires; cleaning materials; solvents; pesticides; insecticides; paint; film; shoes; and other chemical substances. It will annually produce 60,000 tonnes of polyethylene for the production of pipelines; film and cable covering; 60,000 tonnes of light, lined polyethylene; 50,000 tonnes of polypropylene for the car, electrical and packaging industries; 25,000 tonnes of (?polybutadene) for the production of plastics; 8,000 tonnes of acetic acid for acetyl cellulose and aspirin production; 30,000 tonnes of

vinyl acetate for film and glue production, and 102,000 tonnes of high-grade gasoline. Approximately 130,000 tonnes of building material will be used in the project. Fifteen foreign companies and a number of Iranian subcontractors are participating in the project. So far, 328 million rials have been invested in the project.

Pakistan

Government Warned To Take PDA Protest Seriously

BK2607122592 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Jul 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Junejo's Call"] txt
[Text] Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo's plea that the Opposition's "resignation threat" should not be dismissed as inconsequential is a timely reminder to the Prime Minister that he should set his political priorities right. Mr Junejo has not only underscored the need to avert a showdown between the government and the Opposition, but has also shown the way of doing it. Taking the initiative himself to talk to Ms Benazir Bhutto and to try to dissuade her from adopting the extreme course of opting out of the system, he has set the tone for resolving what could develop into a major political crisis. Junejo's logic is rational and quite convincing for all those who wish to nuture a democratic culture in the country. Quitting the legislatures enbloc will undermine democracy and may destabilise the system, he is reported to have told Ms Bhutto. And a little earlier he had, in a similar vein, cautioned the ruling party not to underplay the implications of the Opposition legislators' protest resignations. Regardless of how significant a crisis the Opposition may precipitate, and whether or not the government is adequately prepared to cope with what may follow the boycott of the assemblies in terms of street politics, Junejo's advice has a more basic connotation for the future of democracy. It is, in a nutshell a plea for moderation, and he has been asking both sides to refrain from treading the path of confrontation when it may yet be possible to resolve the issues of discord through a dialogue.

Hopefully, he has brought the message home that it is not a question as to who has the edge or the leverage to outwit the other, but a matter of salvaging the credibility of the system as a viable framework for settling all in-house differences. It should not thus be deemed as a matter of prestige by any one of the parties to the conflict, in particular the government which has the onus to guard the system against threats of all kinds, to indulge in a game of tit for tat. Partisan causes should be pursued to the extent they do not become detrimental to the health and vigour of the body politic and no contender for power, however sure of his self-righteousness, should arrogate himself the right to pronounce himself as the sole custodian of the system. Now that Mr Junejo has set the ball rolling for the ruling party to review its hardened stance on the resignations issue, it is hoped that those who share his concern for safeguarding the democratic system would add their voices to his plea for political accommodation. In his capacity as the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] President, Mr Junejo has the necessary credentials to play the mediator and if he chooses to follow up his initiative with some concerted efforts, he would be doing a good turn to the cause of democratic functioning.

Party Said Divided on Parliamentary Resignations

BK2707102792 Islamabad THE NATION in English 27 Jul 92 p 4

[Text] Karachi—The PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance's] move to quit National and provincial assemblies has not got any momentum so far. The PDA is seeking support of some other Opposition groups in the national and provincial Assemblies in this regard.

So far none of the Opposition group has shown any interest to support the PDA in the resignation move. Some of the members are reluctant to quit their seats on the ground that they may not be able to return to the Assembly. According to reliable sources, the PDA is also divided on this vital issue and some of its members have not yet handed over their resignations to the party chief. The PDA leadership, however, claims it has received the resignations of all its members. Even some Sindh Assembly Members of the PDA have not yet complied with the party directive and they are still resisting the pressure from the party high command because these MPAs believe it will not be in the interest of the party to leave the arena to the government, which may hold by-elections on the vacant seats.

Some sources believe it is being used as a pressure tactic and PDA leadership is not serious to resign their seats in the Assemblies.

Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Leader of the Opposition in the Sindh Assembly, said we may resign any time but the only hitch is that other Opposition groups should also agree to resign in order to make it more effective.

PPP To Defy Rally Ban in Nationwide Protests

BK2607123992 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 26 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided to defy Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons] and other bans and curbs in the way of its countrywide protest demonstrations to be staged on July 30.

Party's central secretary coordination, Malik Hakmeen Khan told newsmen on Saturday that PPP leadership had chalked out its strategy for the protest movement against president, and the government. "We are not afraid of arrests, tortures and victimisation and would force present rulers to quit by our demonstrations come what may."

Hakmeen was of the view that PPP by struggling in accordance with PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] decisions was in fact trying to save the "Pakistan of Quaid-i-Azam." He was confident that people would come out on streets everywhere on the call of their popular leader Benazir Bhutto and PDA leadership.

PPP leader said that there was no way out except launching a protest movement because the president was partisan, government corrupt, 1990 elections were rigged and lawlessness was out of control.

Hakmeen said Benazir Bhutto along with PDA and APC [All Party Council] central leaders Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Mohammad Afzal Khan, Malik Mohammad Qasim, Abdul Hafeez Pirzada, Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar, Miraj Mohammad Khan, Allama Sajid Naqvi, and others would demonstrate in Karachi while similar demonstrations would also be staged in each district of the country.

Malik Hakmeen Khan who had earlier toured farehjang, Hasan-Abdal, Attock and other adjoining towns in connection with party meetings, was confident that demonstrations in each district would be largely attended and people by participating in opposition's protest would express their "vote of no confidence" against present "corrupt" government and "partisan" president. He disclosed that prominent leaders of PPP from Punjab, NWFP [North-west Frontier Province] and AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] would address a big protest rally at Attock after addressing protest demos in their respective areas.

Government To Crack Down on Political Rallies

BK2607124992 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 26 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Karachi—The provincial operation committee (POC) has decided to take cognizance of violation of Section 144 CrPC [Criminal Procedure Code] in the province.

According to a government handout, a decision to this effect was taken at the meeting of POC held recently under the chairmanship of Sindhi Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah.

The meeting decided that serious notice would be taken of any attempt by any group or party to disturb peace or to create conditions which would lead to breach of peace in the province.

Deputy Speaker Accepts Legislators' Resignations

BK2607113292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 Jul 92

[Text] The deputy speaker of the Sindh assembly, Mr. Ata Mohammad Mari, has said he has accepted the resignations of 10 MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] members of the provincial assembly. They are: Mr. Tariq Javed, Mr. M.A. Jalil, Mr. Izhar Ahmad, Mr. Aminuddin, Dr. Safdar Baqri, Dr. Ishratul Ibad, Mr. Abid Akhtar, Mr. Suhail Mashadi, Mr. Arif Khan and Mr. Mohammad Hussain.

The deputy speaker told Radio Pakistan's Karachi representative this afternoon that a notification about the acceptance of their resignations is being sent to the Election Commission. Replying to a question, he said resignations of other MQM members of the Sindh assembly are under consideration and a decision would be taken soon.

Commentary Welcomes Verdict on Ayodhya Issue

BK2407133492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Mohammad Yamim commentary]

[Text] It is gratifying that India's Supreme Court has taken a firm stance over the Babri Masjid [mosque] issue and ordered the state government of Uttar Pradesh—U.P.—to unconditionally halt all construction activity in the state-acquired land around the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. Earlier, the Allahabad High Court had passed similar orders. But the U.P. government had failed to put a stop to the Hindu militant activities who had undertaken to construct the Ram temple in contravention of the high court judgment.

The Supreme Court decision has been given in response to a petition moved by some Indian Muslims for the contempt of court by the state government as it had failed to implement the court orders and had instead indulged in foot dragging by suggesting that any measure to stop the construction work might create a law and order situation and that efforts should be made for resolving the impasse.

The Supreme Court has clearly stated that all construction work must cease before any other proposal on the subject is taken up and has warned the state government that if it failed to comply, the Supreme Court knew how to secure such compliance. It must also be acknowledged that a vast majority of the members of the Indian Parliament have condemned the doings of the Hindu revivalists around the Babri Masjid and the U.P. government has come under heavy criticism in the Indian Parliament's lower house for its ambivalent attitude toward the problem and for encouraging the Hindu militants in their unlawful activity. Without going into the history of the Babri Masjid and without offering any comments on the reality of the Ram Janmabhoomi [birthplace of Ram], because many Indian Hindu scholars have themselves observed that the Ram temple story that is now being whipped into a frenzy might [words indistinct], it is inconceivable that a group of militants should take upon themselves to engage in an activity which will not only hurt the religious feeling of almost 80 to 90 million Muslims of India, but of the entire Muslim world. That is the reason why the government of Pakistan had considered it fit to express its

serious concern over the Indian Government's attention toward fulfilling its constitutional obligation to safeguard the legitimate interests of its Muslim population. That is also the reason why world body of the Muslim states, the Islamic Conference Organization—the ICO—had noted with deep concern the bigoted action of the Indian Hindu fundamentalists in regard to the Babri Masjid and had called upon the Indian Government to take necessary corrective action.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the Indian Government has, although without conceding the point, responded correctly in the matter and appreciated that practicing one's own religious beliefs and rights should not result in interference in the religious beliefs of others. India's responsibility in this affair is even still greater as it professes secularism and has no state religion as such. But the government has to demonstrate to the entire world that neither will it pursue religious discrimination as state policy nor would it permit its predominant Hindu majority population to take the law in its own hand and injure the religious susceptibilities of the minority community on the strength of brute force. It is to be hoped that India's superior court, the Supreme Court and the Allahabad High Court as also Mr. Narasimha Rao's government in New Delhi would continue to remain resolute on this issue and not yield to the pressure of the Hindu fundamentalists for whom there is no shortage in India and that they would also ensure that the state government of Uttar Pradesh obeys the injunctions of the Supreme Court in letter as well as spirit. It should not only earn them the gratitude of Muslim India but also attract the civilized world's appreciation. As for Pakistan, any harm or affront to Muslims in India or anywhere else in the world would only be a cause of worry, because as an Islamic state it truly believes that Muslims of the entire world are brothers to each other.